-A7450-14 4/90

Dave Thomas
Founder of Wendy's Restaurants

Wilson
Former California Superintendent
of Public Instruction

Greg Louganis
Olympic Gold Medalist

Gerald R. Ford
Former U.S. President

Kitty and Peter Carruthers
Olympic Silver Medalists

Scott Hamilton
Olympic Gold Medalist

Adoption Factbook

United States Data, Issues, Regulations and Resources

National Committee For Adoption
1930 Seventeenth Street NW
Washington D.C. 20009

1989
ADOPTION
FACTBOOK

United States Data,
Issues, Regulations
and Resources

Published by the
National Committee For Adoption

Washington, D.C.

June 1989

Copyright 1989 by the National Committee For Adoption, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage and retrieval system now known or to be invented, without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer who wishes to quote brief passages in an article or a review written for inclusion in a magazine, newspaper or broadcast.

Current Printing (last digit)
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

ISBN: 0-9615820-1-4

Foreword

Prior to the publication of the National Committee For Adoption's 1985 Adoption Factbook, there was no comprehensive source of statistics, regulations, and facts on adoption in the United States. The last federal report with adoption statistics was based on 1975 data, which the National Committee For Adoption (NCFA) updated with its own 1982 survey statistics. Once again, NCFA has collected 1986 national adoption data, and current regulations, assembled from data from every State. If one looks at major Federal statistical publications or the latest Statistical Abstract of the United States, nothing appears on adoption beyond what NCFA published in 1985. None of the fragmented data which some federal agencies have collected pertaining to adoption, presents detailed adoption data by State. It is ironic that in this statistically-rich society, no agency of the federal government routinely collects national statistics about the important subject of adoption.

More than 61,000 domestic and foreign unrelated adoptions occur each year in the U.S. If one adds the number of other persons directly affected by those adoptions, at least 440,000 additional persons are connected to adoption. And in addition to these 500,000 people, billions of dollars of tax revenues are spent for single parents receiving welfare benefits alone. Even the U.S. Congress needed the data to make policy decisions based on hard numbers instead of vague estimates, and has required several times in the past decade that national adoption data be collected, but to little avail.

For years the National Committee For Adoption has encouraged and prodded various federal agencies to collect, analyze, and disseminate adoption data. Misinformation is harmful because when there is no solid data to guide policy, planning, and regulations, questionable practices and the black market in adoption are only encouraged. When we suggested to various Federal officials that the task of gathering the data was not insurmountable, the responses were that such a survey could not be done without extraordinary effort and expense. In this context, the National Committee For Adoption accepted the challenge and set about, within its limited resources, to demonstrate that a wealth of adoption data did exist and could be assembled into a statistically useful report. We chose 1982 as the baseline year for our first national survey, and assembled current regulations and a wealth of other useful data on adoption into our 1985 Adoption Factbook at a total cost of less than $100,000 in staff efforts and consulting costs.

Because of continued federal default in the area of producing national adoption statistics, NCFA has again risen to the task of collecting, analyzing, and disseminating national and State adoption statistics and regulations. During 1988, we surveyed all the States and compiled the data in the 1989 Adoption Factbook. Again, we have demonstrated that national adoption statistics can still be gathered; our small national voluntary organization has done so, and again, for less than $100,000.

We were pleased that in 1985 a Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) working group recommended the resumption of federal adoption data collection. NCFA endorsed their report, and published their 16 pages of recommendations in our 1985 Adoption Factbook. Shortly after that work group disbanded, the National Center for State Courts with a grant from DHHS' Administration for Children, Youth and Families, began a series of meetings with State Court and State Health Department representatives to determine the feasibility and timing of the resumption of federal data collection on adoption. The National Center for State Courts used many of the sources of State data as published in Appendix A.6. of our 1985 *Adoption Factbook* as a basis for identifying and updating a listing of State social service agencies and court systems which might be contacted for State data. NCFA contacted each of those sources in collecting our 1986 adoption data, although often alternate or supplementary sources of data had to be found. In 1986, Congress passed legislation requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a national system for collecting data on foster care and adoption. Congress required that this system be operating by 1991. The law required that DHHS publish final regulations for implementing this system by the end of 1988, a deadline that has not been met. However, if a lead Federal agency is selected in 1989, and funded and staffed in 1990, federal responsibility for adoption statistics could begin in earnest in 1992, just in time to collect statistics for the 1990 data year. Combined with NCFA's 1982 and 1986 statistics, the 1990 federal collected data would yield four-year adoption data periodicity for the 1982, 1986, and 1990. The trends observed would be invaluable for guiding policies and programs which profoundly affect tax payers, agencies, social workers, attorneys, biological parents, adoptive parents, and most importantly--adoptees.

It is our hope that this *1989 Adoption Factbook*'s rich source of data and materials relating to adoption, services for young, single, or troubled parents, and services to couples or singles who would like to adopt children will stimulate a careful examination of all aspects of policy relating to these services. Reliable annual information on America's adoptive children and their families should be a top federal priority, and not slip by default to a small non-profit agency which has twice now proven the feasibility and utility of the task.

William L. Pierce

William L. Pierce
President

Acknowledgments

The data in this 1989 Adoption Factbook were gathered through the extraordinary efforts of a few dedicated staff members of the National Committee For Adoption (NCFA). The major role of data gathering was handled by Jeffrey R. Rosenberg, MSW, NCFA's Director of Public Policy. Additional work was done by Dawn Bes, Administrative Assistant, who was a patient and efficient coordinator of the many administrative and clerical details connected with the project. Finally, Mary Beth Seader, MSW, Director for Professional Practice provided valuable editorial and organizational suggestions.

We also wish to acknowledge the assistance of hundreds of individuals in the States, agencies, and localities we contacted. These persons were enthusiastic and cooperative--and actually pleased that these data were again being collected. This project could not have been done without their assistance.

We are very grateful for the statistical guidance and supervision of Dr. Paul Placek, who advised NCFA's staff on handling the mass of data presented here. He is a statistician-demographer with 18 years of experience in fertility studies, survey research, and extensive publications in vital and health statistics. With appropriate clearances, he consulted with us in his private capacity; the endorsement of his employer is neither intended nor inferred. We hope we have adequately stressed the strengths and limitations of the data, and interpreted them accurately.

NCFA's member agencies and board, as well as our supporting foundations, also deserve thanks for encouraging us to undertake this effort.

William L. Pierce, Ph.D.
President

National Committee For Adoption Staff:

William L. Pierce, Ph.D.
President

Jeffrey Rosenberg, MSW
Director of Public Policy

Mary Beth Seader, MSW
Director of Professional Practice

Dawn Bes
Administrative Assistant

Almaz Bekele
Membership Secretary

CONTENTS

Page

Foreword ii
Acknowledgments iv
Contents v

PART I. INTRODUCTION

1. Why this Factbook? 1
2. Adoption Factbook Executive Summary 2
3. Goals of the National Committee For Adoption 10
4. Nine Social Trends Affecting the "Adoption Option" 12
5. Seven Ways NCFA Promotes the "Adoption Option" 15
6. Brief History of Adoption 18

PART II. ADOPTION REGULATIONS

7. Summary of State Adoption Regulations Based on National Committee For Adoption Survey 20
8. Immigration and Naturalization Service: Summary of Petition Procedures for Adopting a Foreign Infant 38
9. Model Law on Adoption Registries 44
10. Survey on State Laws and Legislation on Access to Adoption Records (reprint) 45

PART III. ADOPTION STATISTICS

11. History of National Adoption Statistics 56
12. Background for the National Committee For Adoption's 1982 and 1986 Surveys 59
13. Overview of Adoptions in 1986 60
14. Percentages of Related and Unrelated Adoptions—1986 61
15. Unrelated Adoptions by Public Agencies, Private Agencies, and Private Individuals—1986 61
16. Unrelated Adoptions of Infants—1986 61
17. Unrelated Domestic and Foreign Adoptions—1986 61
18. State Trends in Adoption—1982 and 1986 62
19. Special Needs Adoptions—1982 and 1986 62
20. State Rankings in Numbers of Adoptions—1986 63
21. Ratios of Adoptions, Live Births, Nonmarital Live Births, and Abortions—1986 64
22. "Adoption Option Index"™ from the National Committee For Adoption 66
23. National Trends in Related and Unrelated Adoptions—1951 to 1986 69
24. National Trends in Public Agency, Private Agency, and Independent Adoptions—1951 to 1986 70
25. Countries of Origin for Foreign Adoptions—1985 to 1987 71
26. Foreign Adoptions to U.S. States—1985 to 1987
27. Characteristics of Foreign Adoptees to the U.S.—Sex, Age and Major Countries of Origin—1985 to 1987 72
28. Better Federal and State Data on Adoption Needed 73

Tables and Figures

Table 1. Related and unrelated domestic and foreign adoptions: United States: 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey 80
Table 2. Number and percentage distribution of related and unrelated domestic adoptions for each State, Division, and the United States: 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey 82
Table 3. Number and percentage distribution of types of unrelated domestic adoptions for each State, Division, and the United States: 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey 84
Table 4. Number of unrelated domestic adoptions of infants and as a percentage of unrelated domestic adoptions, 1986 live births, and 1986 births to unmarried women for each State, Division, and the United States: 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey 86
Table 5. Total unrelated (domestic and foreign) adoptions and total foreign adoptions as a percentage of total unrelated adoptions for each State, Division and the United States: 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey 88
Table 6. Percentage change in total related and unrelated adoptions by State and Division: United States, 1982 and 1986 National Committee For Adoption Surveys 90
Table 7. Special needs adoptions as a percentage of unrelated domestic adoptions and percent change for each State, Division, and the United States: 1982 and 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey 92
Table 8. State ranking of numbers of unrelated domestic adoptions, infant adoptions, special needs adoptions, and foreign adoptions based on the top 10 States: 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey 94
Table 9. Number of domestic infant adoptions, abortions, live births, and nonmarital live births, and ratios, for each State, Division and the United States: 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey, 1986 live births, and 1985 abortions (Ratio per 1,000) 96
Table 10. State rankings using "Adoption Option Index"™ from the National Committee For Adoption 98
Table 11. National estimates of related and unrelated adoptions: United States, 1951 to 1986 99
Table 12. National estimates of unrelated adoptions and type of agency making adoptive placement: United States, 1951 to 1986 100
Table 13. Immigrant orphans (foreign adoptees) admitted to the United States by country or region of birth, fiscal years 1985 to 1987 101
Table 14. Number of foreign adoptions, percent distribution, and 1985 to 1987 percentage change for each State, Division, and the United States 104
Table 15. Number and percent of foreign adoptions in the U.S. according to sex, age, and major countries of origin: 1985, 1986, and 1987 106
Figure 1. Domestic and foreign unrelated adoptions: 1982 and 1986 60
Figure 2. Special needs unrelated domestic adoptions: 1982 and 1986 63
Figure 3. Ratios of infant adoptions, abortions, live births, and nonmarital live births: 1982 and 1986 65
Figure 4. State Rankings of NCFA's "Adoption Option Index"™ 67
Figure 5. Total related and unrelated adoptions: 1951 to 1986 70
Figure 6. Unrelated domestic adoptions by agencies (public and private) and independent adoptions by private individuals: 1951 to 1986 70

PART IV. ISSUES IN ADOPTION

CURRENT ISSUES

29. Birthparents and Adoptees Who Seek Each Other 107
30. Communication Between Birth and Adoptive Parents ("Openness") 111
31. "Surrogate Parenting" 116
32. Advertising For Babies 121
33. Transracial Adoption 123
34. Teenage Birthparents 127
35. AIDS Babies—Maternity Care, Foster Care, and Adoption 130
36. "Wrongful" Adoption 132
37. Post-Legal Adoptive Services For the Adoption Circle 134
38. Adoption Practice Today: The Current Judicial Boundaries (reprint) 137

BIRTHPARENT ISSUES

39. Adoption Counseling 143
40. Birthmothers Who Place Their Children For Adoption 148
41. Rights of the Biological Father 150

ADOPTIVE PARENT ISSUES

42. Infertility and Reproductive Technology 152
43. Infertility and the "Adoption Demand" 157
44. Who Adopts? Profile of Adoptive Parents 160
45. Foreign Adoptions 163
46. Do's and Don'ts in Adopting a Foreign Child 167
47. Risks in independent Adoption Arrangements 169
48. Public Agency, Private Agency, and Individually Arranged Adoptions: Risks and Benefits 172
49. Black Adoption Issues 176
50. Hispanic Adoption Issues 179
51. American Indian Adoptions and the Indian Child Welfare Act 181
52. Foster Care and Adoption: Emphasis on Special Needs Children 184
53. Adoption Disruption and Dissolution 195

ADOPTED CHILDREN'S ISSUES

54. For Adopted Kids Only: Reading Just for Early Teens Who Are Adopted 199
55. Characteristics of Adopted Children 203
56. Myth of the "Adopted Child Syndrome" 205

FINANCIAL ISSUES

57. What Does It Cost To Adopt? 207
58. Tax Laws and Insurance Benefits Affecting Adoptions 209
59. Business Firms and Adoption Benefits 213

PART V. ADOPTION RESOURCES

60. Inventory of Adoption Agencies Which Support the National Committee For Adoption 215
61. State Employed Adoption Specialists 219
62. Regional Program Director Offices for Children, Youth and Families 221
63. National Organizations 221
64. Relevant National Health Organizations 221
65. National and Regional Adoption Exchanges 222
66. State Contacts for Adoptive Parent Support Groups 223
67. State Adoption Exchanges and Photolisting Books (Waiting Children and Families) 230
68. Infertility Problems 232
69. Single Parents 232
70. Interracial and Intercultural Support Groups 232
71. Agencies and Programs for Black Adoptions 233
72. Hispanic Programs 234
73. Indian/Native American Programs 234
74. Special Needs Children 234
75. Family Builders Agencies 235
76. Selected Intercountry Adoption Agencies 235
77. Intercountry Adoption Groups 236
78. Groups Interested in Foster Care and Adoption 237
79. Search Groups 237

APPENDIX

A. Methodology of the National Adoption Survey Conducted by the National Committee For Adoption 238
  1. Reason for Survey 238
  2. Survey Methodology—Data Collection 238
  3. Survey Procedures for Data Cleanup 238
  4. Survey Limitations and Undercounts 239
  5. Questionnaire and Cover Letter for National Committee For Adoption Survey 241
  6. Sources of Data Shown in Table 1 247

Bibliography 257
Subject Matter Index 265

Order Form for Publications and Materials Available through the NCFA Bookstore 268

PART I. INTRODUCTION

1. Why this Factbook?

This 1989 Adoption Factbook is designed to fill major information voids in the field of adoption and update and greatly expand upon our Adoption Factbook published in 1985.

Since the NCFA was founded in 1980, it has become painfully obvious that there was no one source of authoritative, factual information about adoption. Federal data collection on adoption ceased in 1975. While National, State, and local adoption groups occasionally publish useful brochures, none are comprehensive and most are colloquial. Still, access to factual information is essential to rational decisions by adoptive parents, biological parents, agencies, support groups, social workers, attorneys, and policymakers. Except for NCFA's 1985 and 1989 Adoption Factbooks, this information has not been available at all, and certainly not readily available in one place. NCFA's 1989 Adoption Factbook, the most comprehensive resource book available anywhere, contains four major types of new and updated information:

1. Current adoption regulations--including State regulations; Immigration and Naturalization Service Regulations for foreign adoptions; regulations on access to State adoption records; legislation on adoption registries; and regulations on surrogate motherhood.

2. Adoption statistics--including previously unpublished data from the National Committee For Adoption's 1986 national survey of adoption; previously unpublished Immigration and Naturalization Service data on foreign adoptions; a new synthesis of trend statistics on adoption including NCFA's 1982 survey data, and our recommendations for a sensible Federal/State adoption data collection program.

3. A frank discussion of the issues concerning adoption--including transracial adoption; foreign adoption; foster care; pro's and con's of public, private, and individual adoption; characteristics of adoptive children, biological parents, and adoptive parents; and a new look at issues which have recently become hightly salient including: surrogate motherhood; AIDS babies; infertility; reproductive technology; and advertising for babies.

4. Adoption resources--including lists of almost 1,000 adoption specialists, support groups, organizations, and programs designed to help lay persons and professionals at the local, State, and national level obtain access to the experts.

Every effort has been made to supply facts rather than rhetoric. Where information is based on NCFA's professional judgment rather than impartial surveys, we have so stated explicitly. Our intention is to supply an unbiased resource which can be used by all--whether "liberal" or "conservative", Republican or Democrat, "pro-choice" or "pro-life". This 1989 Adoption Factbook is biased only in that it is pro-adoption, and is intended as an authoritative guide for assisting with successful adoption placements in which the adoptive child's best welfare is placed first over all other considerations.

2. Adoption Factbook Executive Summary

Adoption is a legal procedure in which a person or couple takes a child that is not their offspring into the family and raises the child as their own; this child may be unrelated to either adoptive parent, may be the child of one member of the couple, or may be related in some other way to the adoptive parents. Adoption severs all legal ties between the adoptee and his or her birth parents (except when one birth parent is a member of the adopting couple), and establishes such ties between the adoptee and the adoptive parents. Legally, the adoptee has the same status with respect to his or her adoptive parents as do any nonadopted siblings.

For the most part, adoption in the United States is overseen by the States, subject to State laws and under the jurisdiction of State courts. Federal laws concerning actual adoption procedures exist only in special cases: adoption of American Indian children, which is controlled by the Indian Child Welfare Act, and adoption of foreign children, which is subject to U.S. immigration law. In addition, several Federal programs provide funds to States to use for adoption subsidies, adoption services, and related services such as foster care and family counseling.

This 1989 Adoption Factbook deals comprehensively with adoption issues, regulations, statistics, and resources. The following highlights summarize much of what is in this book.

PART I. INTRODUCTION

- Information on adoption issues, regulations, data, and resources are needed by biological and adoptive parents, State health and welfare officials, attorneys, adoption specialists, and policymakers--this 1989 Adoption Factbook attempts to fill that need (Chapter 1).

- The National Committee For Adoption (NCFA) promotes the "adoption option" in numerous ways, and protects children in adoption proceedings, encourages adoption registries, assists with adoption legislation, disseminates useful information, recommends sound adoption practices, and conducts research (Chapter 3 and 5).

- Social trends which have profoundly affected adoption include legalized abortion, the "sexual revolution", mainstreaming of pregnant girls in the school system, strengthening of the rights of putative fathers, reduction of the stigmas of out-of-wedlock childbearing and welfare, increases in female headed households, an insufficient number of comprehensive maternity homes, and a large demand by infertile couples for relatively few adoptable children (Chapter 4).

- The history of adoption with independent, uncoordinated development of adoption regulations by States against a backdrop of little Federal regulation has led to the current status of pluralistic policies and inadequate data for better policy (Chapter 6).

PART II. ADOPTION REGULATIONS

- NCFA's inventory of adoption facts and regulations in Chapter 7 reveals enormous State-to-State variability. For example, in Alabama, identified adoptions are legal, but a home study is required before finalization. In Wyoming, independent adoptions are legal and home studies are not required. It is legal for prospective adoptive parents to advertise in the newspapers in 32 states.
- Immigration and Naturalization Service petition procedures for adopting a foreign infant require the completion of Form I-600A, Form I-600, Form FD-258, and other proofs, decrees, and evidence (Chapter 8).
- NCFA's "Model Law on Adoption Registries" attempts to balance the need for privacy with the need for information, and over 20 states now have such legislation (Chapter 9).
- NCFA's 1988 "Survey of State Laws and Legislation on Access to Adoption Records" reviews, on a State-by-State basis, specific laws concerning adoption, and discusses the varying viewpoints of groups such as the Council on Accreditation, the Child Welfare League of America, the Adoptees Liberty Movement Association, Concerned United Birthparents, American Adoption Congress, and the Washington Adoptees Rights Movement (Chapter 10).

PART III. ADOPTION STATISTICS

- The chronology of Federal efforts to collect national adoption statistics over the past 14 years reflects bureaucratic sluggishness, false starts, and inertia (Chapter 11).
- NCFA conducted its own national survey based on both the 1982 and 1986 data years because Federal data collection ceased in 1975 and a desperate need had developed for more current adoption data by policymakers, adoption agencies, social workers, attorneys, health professionals, researchers, biological parents, adoptive parents and adopted persons (Chapter 12).
- NCFA estimates in 1986 that 104,088 related and unrelated domestic adoptions occurred in the U.S. In 1986, there were 51,157 unrelated domestic adoptions and 10,019 foreign adoptions. Of 51,157 unrelated domestic adoptions in 1986, 24,589 were unrelated adoptions of infants, and 13,568 were unrelated adoptions of children with special needs (Chapter 13; table 1; figure 1).
- Of 51,157 unrelated domestic adoptions in 1986, 35,127 were arranged by agencies and 16,040 were arranged by private individuals. Of the agency adoptions, 20,064 were arranged by public agencies and 15,063 were arranged by private agencies (Chapter 13; table 1).
- A total of 50.9 percent of all domestic adoptions in the U.S. in 1986 were related adoptions (Chapter 14; table 2).

- Of 51,157 unrelated domestic adoptions in the U.S., in 1986, agencies handled 68.6 percent and private individuals handled 31.4 percent. Of the agency adoptions, public agencies handled 39.2 percent and private agencies handled 29.4 percent (Chapter 15; table 3).

- Infants comprised 48.1 percent of all unrelated domestic adoptions in 1986. The 24,589 infant adoptions represented only 0.7 percent of all U.S. live births, and only 2.8 percent of all U.S. live births to unmarried women in that year. Since most infant adoptions are children relinquished by unmarried women, this indicates that about 97 percent of babies born to unmarried women were kept by the mother (Chapter 16; table 4).

- When unrelated domestic adoptions are combined with foreign adoptions, the total number of unrelated adoptions is 61,176. Of these, foreign adoptions comprised 16.4 percent of the total (Chapter 17; table 5).

- While unrelated domestic adoptions numbered about the same (about 51,000) in both 1982 and 1986, the number of related domestic adoptions has dropped precipitously, from 91,141 in 1982 to only 52,931 in 1986 (Chapter 18; table 6).

- In both 1982 and in 1986, special needs adoptions comprised just over one-fourth of unrelated domestic adoptions (Chapter 19; table 7; figure 2).

- Texas ranked #1 in number of unrelated domestic adoptions; Illinois ranked #1 in number of domestic infant adoptions, California ranked #1 in number of special needs adoptions, and New York ranked #1 in number of foreign adoptions (Chapter 20; table 8). These are all large population states.

- In 1986, there were only 15.5 adoptions for every 1,000 abortions, 6.5 adoptions for every 1,000 live births, 28.0 adoptions for every 1,000 nonmarital live births, and 422.9 abortions for every 1,000 live births (Chapter 21; table 9; figure 3).

- NCFA's "Adoption Option Index" TM is a new statistical measure which indicates the relative frequency of infant adoptions to that group of pregnancy outcomes which could potentially yield adoptions--abortions and nonmarital live births. It is standardized per 1,000 so large and small states can be compared as to their relative levels of adoption activity. The national index is 10.0 adoptions per 1,000 abortions and nonmarital live births. (This indicates only one infant adoption per 100 abortions and nonmarital live births). NCFA's "Adoption Option Index" is 51.9 in Utah but only 1.4 in New Jersey (Chapter 22; table 10; figure 4).

- Unrelated adoptions have been fairly stable at about 50,000 since 1974--significantly reduced from the 80,000-90,000 observed in the late 1960's and early 1970's (Chapter 23; table 11).

- There was a steadily increasing trend from 1951 to the mid-1970's for public agencies to make a greater percentage of adoptive placements; this has remained at about 39 percent for the past decade. Private agencies are handling relatively fewer adoptions now than the 1960's and 1970's, while independent adoptions have increased since the mid-1970's (Chapter 24; table 12).

- Over the 1985-87 period, there was an 8.7 percent increase in foreign adoptions to this country. The East North Central and New England Divisions registered the greatest percentage increases (Chapter 25; table 14).

- Foreign adoptions continue to increase steadily, and 10,097 occurred in fiscal year 1987. Only 122 foreign adoptees came from Europe in 1987, as compared with 7,614 from Asia (Chapter 26; table 13).

- Female children comprised 56 percent of foreign adoptions in 1985-87, and infants under one year of age comprised 64 percent of foreign adoptions in this same period. The majority of foreign adoptees continue to come from Korea, and New York receives just over 10 percent of foreign adoptees (Chapter 27; table 15).

PART IV. ISSUES IN ADOPTION

- Interests often conflict between the desire to keep confidential adoption records sealed by one person and the desire by another (biological parent or adoptee) to search. Very few adoptees and birth parents seek to meet each other (Chapter 29).

- There has been much discussion of "experimental" or "open" adoption recently, but NCFA is skeptical about these arrangements because of the added risks of disruption and the fact that these arrangements have not been empirically evaluated against traditional confidential adoptions (Chapter 30).

- "Baby M" brought surrogate parenting problems to public attention, and many states are now scrambling to regulate or prohibit surrogacy. NCFA believes surrogacy should be prohibited (Chapter 31).

- Prospective adoptive couples and recruitment attorneys advertising for babies through the newspapers is legal, or at least not prohibited, in 32 states. This type of recruitment for pregnant women and their babies carries all the attendant risks of independent adoptions (Chapter 32).

- Transracial adoption, although controversial, does allow for the healthy development of children. While a goal of placement should usually be to place the child with a family of similar racial/ethnic background, no placement should be postponed if a similar family is not available (Chapter 33).

- The factors which predict teenagers at risk of nonmarital parenthood are disciplinary problems in school, lower educational aspirations, depression, and propensity to consider teenage parenthood before it actually occurs. Major studies which offer solutions to teenage pregnancy do not give adequate consideration to the adoption option (Chapter 34).

- Pediatric AIDS cases may number over 3,000 by the year 1991, and will represent an increasing share of special needs children requiring foster care and an agressive search for prospective adoptive parents (Chapter 35).

- More "wrongful" adoption suits are being filed by adoptive parents who allege that they were not given complete information on the child's physical, emotional, or behavioral background (Chapter 36).

- Post-legal services for the adoption circle are being increasingly offered to improve the stability of adoption placements (Chapter 37).

- A review of recent judicial developments in adoption practice identifies the latest challenges for child placement agencies (Chapter 38).

- Competent adoption counseling involves challenging the birth mother to consider all aspects of her decision, and it is important for the counselor to use positive language in these discussions (Chapter 39).

- Unmarried birth mothers who place their children for adoption are less likely to subsequently live in poverty, need public assistance, become pregnant again soon, or resolve subsequent pregnancies by abortion. They are more likely to complete high school and be employed, and are no more likely to suffer negative psychological consequences than mothers who rear as single parents (Chapter 40).

- The rights of biological fathers have been strengthened in recent years, but these rights depend upon the degree to which the father previously exercised his parental prerogatives (Chapter 41).

- New reproductive technologies are available to help the 4.5 million American couples with infertility problems. Perhaps 200,000 babies each year are born because couples are using the advanced treatments described (Chapter 42).

- At least one million American couples with infertility problems and who want a baby will never conceive. These couples compete for and wait for the 50,000 adoptable children who become available each year. The "adoption demand" is such that there are at least 20 prospective adoptive couples per adoptable child. Married couples with children and without infertility problems, and single persons could also be considered as prospective adoptive parents more often by agencies if the number of adoptable children were larger (Chapter 43).

- About two percent of married American couples have adopted, but over five percent of sterile couples with no births have adopted (Chapter 44).

- Intercountry adoption requires a homestudy, immigration documents, and application to an agency or orphanage (Chapter 45).

- Eight "do's and don'ts" for those interested in adopting a foreign child are offered as a useful guide (Chapter 46).

- There are numerous risks in independent adoption arrangements for birthmothers, adoptive parents, and adopted children (Chapter 47).

- Thirty comparisons of risks and benefits of public agency, private agency, and independent adoptions are made (Chapter 48).

- Black adoption issues revolve around the relatively fewer available prospective adoptive black families and the need for strengthened recruitment of black families, relatively more black children in foster care and available for adoption, and some resistance to transracial adoption (Chapter 49).

- The nation's Hispanic population has increased substantially since 1980, and Hispanic nonmarital fertility rate is twice as high as white non-Hispanic nonmarital fertility. Adoption of these children combined with foreign adoptions of Hispanic children raises unique issues of cultural integration in trans-ethnic placements (Chapter 50).

- The 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act needs reform to allow greater freedom for Indian women to place their children without tribal intervention (Chapter 51).

- Over one million American children are victims of abuse or neglect, and 276,000 of these children are now in substitute care. Reuniting these children with their relatives or freeing them more quickly for adoption is a growing challenge (Chapter 52).

- Adoption disruption and dissolution occur more often when children are older at placement, have had more prior placements, have a prior history of abuse, and have behavioral problems. Couples often complain that agencies were not frank and realistic with them about the emotional handicaps of the children whose adoptions are later disrupted (Chapter 53).

- Adopted kids reading this Factbook should understand that adoption is a natural occurrence, that their adoption was a loving decision, that good communication with their adoptive parents is essential, and that some curiosity about their biological parents is normal (Chapter 54).

- Adopted children do very well with their adoptive families. They are much less likely to live in poverty than children raised by unmarried mothers (Chapter 55).

- The "adopted child syndrome" is a myth fabricated by a defense attorney in a highly-publicized murder trial, unthinkingly promulgated by the press, and unfairly stigmatizing adoptees (chapter 56).

- The average fee paid to adopt through NCFA agencies is $5,204; but public agencies often charge much less, and unscrupulous intermediaries often charge much more in independent adoptions (Chapter 57).
- New laws and insurance benefits may facilitate adoption, but more tax benefits are justified (Chapter 58).
- Many business firms offer adoption benefits as an equity consideration, to present a pro-family image to employees, and for good public relations (Chapter 59).

PART V. ADOPTION RESOURCES

- NCFA has enumerated about 140 nonprofit adoption agencies in nearly every State which support NCFA and its goals (Chapter 60).
- NCFA has named at least one State employed adoption specialist for each State (Chapter 61).
- NCFA has specified all ten Regional Offices of Human Development Service for Children, Youth and Families (Chapter 62).
- NCFA has identified various national organizations which promote the cause of adoption (Chapter 63).
- NCFA has called attention to relevant national health organizations which provide information and referral services helpful to those adopting special needs children (Chapter 64).
- NCFA has recognized over a dozen national and regional adoption exchanges which promote adoption (Chapter 65).
- NCFA has listed, within every State, numerous contacts and adoption support groups--nearly 500 in all (Chapter 66).
- NCFA has inventoried over 40 State photolisting books (waiting lists of children and families) (Chapter 67).
- NCFA has identified organizations which counsel infertile couples, and help them understand alternatives such as adoption (Chapter 68).
- NCFA has named a networking service for single adults who wish to adopt (Chapter 69).
- NCFA has listed twenty-nine agencies which support interracial and inter-cultural adoptive families (Chapter 70).
- NCFA has identified 18 agencies and programs which are non-discriminatory and actively seek to recruit black adoptive families (Chapter 71).
- NCFA has recognized four agencies which focus on Hispanic adoption (Chapter 72).
- NCFA has called attention to three organizations which promote Indian/Native American adoption (Chapter 73).

- NCFA has specified over a dozen agencies which assist with special needs adoptions beyond those agencies already listed elsewhere (Chapter 74).
- NCFA has listed six family builders agencies (Chapter 75).
- NCFA has named twenty-three intercountry adoption agencies (Chapter 76).
- NCFA has listed six intercountry adoption groups (Chapter 77).
- NCFA has identified ten associations particularly interested in foster care (Chapter 78).
- NCFA has named four search groups which assist adopted children and biological parents to locate each other (Chapter 79).
- NCFA has alphabetically listed over 100 references used in preparing its 1989 Adoption Factbook. (See Bibliography after Chapter 77).
- NCFA has prepared a handy subject matter Index (after Bibliography).
- NCFA has described in detail the 1986 NCFA adoption survey data and 1988 adoption regulations gathered from its 1988 national survey (Appendix A).
- NCFA has reproduced posters on adoption and books for sale from the NCFA Bookstore.

3. Goals of the National Committee For Adoption

The National Committee For Adoption

1. promotes to the public adoption as a positive option of choice for young, single or troubled parents.

2. protects all children in any adoption proceeding by working toward having all future adoptions handled only by public or licensed, not-for-profit adoption agencies.

3. promotes appropriate practice in the field of adoption and adolescent pregnancy with the media, lawmakers, policymakers, the human services field and the general public.

4. supports the right to confidentiality for those in the adoption triad, and the creation of State-level mutual-consent, voluntary adoption registries through State legislation.

5. monitors the development of State adoption legislation to assure use of the principles of the Federal Model Act for the Adoption of Children with Special Needs as a guideline.

6. operates a variety of information services for those interested in adoption for infants, for young, single or troubled parents, for America's waiting children, and for children from other countries.

7. Publishes useful materials, including:

   - the bi-monthly National Adoption Reports, a newsletter specifically tailored to the needs of adoptive parents
   - a newsletter focused on adoption and services, entitled Unmarried Parents Today
   - the bi-weekly MEMO, an advisory bulletin especially for member agencies
   - other analyses, manuals, directories and posters
   - discounts on materials, books and other resources published by others
   - current developments in court cases and legislative developments affecting adoption and adolescent pregnancy
   - public service television and radio advertisements, such as NCFA's well-received "Adopted Kids Have Great Expectations" campaign

7. promotes excellence in practice through appropriate standards and accreditation.

8. through consultation, provides information about and training needed to help agencies and individuals cope with changes in practice.

9. supports continuation of the Adolescent Family Life Demonstration Projects Law or its equivalent.

10. reviews existing research and does new research, as needed, to bolster appropriate agency practice.

11. responds, as necessary and appropriate, to any contingency which would affect the field of adoption for infants, for young, single or troubled parents, for America's waiting children and for children from other countries.

12. has advocates in Washington, D.C. and in State capitols.

4. Nine Social Trends Affecting the "Adoption Option"

At least nine social trends in the 1980's may have caused adoption to be chosen less often as a desirable option. Some of these trends are buttressed by legal decisions which have made adoption more complicated, adoption services more expensive, or otherwise affected promotion of the "adoption option".

1. More unmarried mothers are parenting their babies. Most adoptable babies are born to unmarried mothers. In 1986, there were 3,756,547 live births, of which 878,477 were born to unmarried mothers (National Center for Health Statistics, 1988). In that same year, there were only 51,157 unrelated adoptions, about the same as the 50,720 unrelated adoptions that occurred in 1982 (when total births numbered 3,680,537, and births to unmarried mothers numbered 715,227 (NCHS, 1984)). Thus, unrelated adoptions from 1982 to 1986 remained relatively constant, despite the fact that births to unmarried mothers have increased by over 160,000.

2. The stigmas of out-of-wedlock childbearing and welfare are reduced, possibly because both are more common. During the late 1960's and 1970's, AFDC and Medicaid benefits for pregnant, single mothers have become well established and well used. A trend study with the 1973 and 1982 National Surveys of Family Growth showed that fewer women are using their own income to pay for hospital birth expenses, and more are using Medicaid and other government sources of payment (Pamuk and Mosher, 1988). In 1986, 23 percent of all births were to unmarried mothers. In 1986, among white teens, 48.1 percent of births were out of wedlock as compared with 90.0 percent of births for black teens (NCHS, 1988). In 1960, only 5.3 percent of births were to unmarried mothers, and this rose to 10.7 percent in 1970 (NCHS, 1988). The availability of welfare and medical assistance to help these unmarried teens raise their infants may encourage more teens to attempt to parent rather than make adoption plans.

3. The number of female headed households has increased due to the rise in divorce rates and the increase in out-of-wedlock births. In 1986, 16.1 percent of all family households were headed by women, up from 9.8 percent in 1960 and 14.6 percent in 1970 (Bureau of the Census, 1988). Many girls may not feel compelled to seriously consider adoption because they themselves were raised in female-headed households and view their mothers as acceptable role models. And divorce, which cuts across all socio-economic groups, makes single parenting more socially acceptable as an option. In 1986, the divorce rate was 4.8 per 1,000 population, up from 2.2 in 1960 and 3.5 in 1970 (NCHS, 1988 and 1986).

4. The legalization of abortion means that women can make confidential decisions to terminate pregnancy--and often no one, except the doctor, knows. The 1,588,550 abortions which occurred in the United States in 1985 reduced the potential number of adopted children.

The United States, like many other countries of the world, has a liberal policy on abortion. According to Djerassi (1986):

- 40% of the world's people live in countries where there are no restrictions on first-trimester abortions (Examples: U.S., Netherlands, Italy, France, Tunisia, China, Soviet Union, etc.)

- 25% live in countries with a permissive stance, and take into account income and marital status in approving abortion (Great Britian, India, Japan, most East European countries, etc.)

- 10% live in countries which approve abortion for broad medical grounds, such as fetal damage, rape, and incest

- 25% live in countries where abortion is totally illegal or permitted only to save the life of a pregnant woman (most of the Muslim nations in Asia, most of Africa, two-thirds of Latin American countries, and Ireland, Spain, Portugal, and Belgium).

100% (of world's population)

Almost one-third of U.S. abortions are to teenagers, and almost three-fourths are to unmarried mothers. When unwanted pregnancy occurs, adoption ought to be an option considered more often. This can occur if States better fund their adoption agencies, concerned citizens support private agencies, prenatal and maternity home care become more widely available, and other supportive actions recommended in this book are taken.

5. The demand for adoptable babies remains high due to continued infertility. In 1982, 2.4 million couples or one couple in every seven had infertility problems, about the same as in 1965 and 1976. However, among couples aged 20-24 the percent infertile increased from 4 percent in 1965 to 11 percent in 1982 (Mosher and Pratt, 1987). Therefore, the prospective adoptive couples greatly outnumber adoptable children. This demand is one of the factors which has led many couples to adopt older children, children of a different racial or ethnic group, foreign-born children, and/or disabled children. Despite the benefits of these special needs children having a better chance of being adopted, there are still many qualified would-be parents who cannot find a child, must wait for years, resort to newspaper advertisements, or become involved in independent adoptions which are expensive or questionable.

6. Title IX of the education law requires school districts to offer schooling to pregnant girls within the 'mainstream' of the school. While one of the purported benefits of this is an advancement of access to educational opportunities for young pregnant women, it results in less privacy for young women who carry their babies to term and who might be considering adoption. If immature friends and peers participate in the young woman's adoption decision, it may be more difficult for her to make a responsible life choice decision. Coming back to school from the hospital without a baby is "unthinkable" to many teens.

7. The rights of putative fathers have increased significantly due to Supreme Court decisions Stanley v. Illinois (1972) and Caban v. Mohammed (1979), and due to the States' response to these cases. In most States today, notification about the intention of the mother to relinquish the baby for adoption must be given to a putative father. A right to a hearing to determine the fitness of the father before proceeding with the adoption is also required in many States. In some states the biological father may veto an adoption, even if he has no proper plans to care for the child himself. It is ironic that while a woman can unilaterally choose a confidential abortion, she does not have the unilateral right to place the child for adoption. Notification and recognition of the putative father is a painful and complex process for many pregnant, young women. Deciding to raise the baby herself relieves the young mother of this particular and early ordeal, and consequently reduces the number of adoptable infants.

8. There are not enough comprehensive maternity homes. The financial costs and professional challenge of maintaining high-quality, separate, residential, educational, and medical facilities for young, pregnant girls has resulted in relatively few homes. The census of residential maternity homes conducted in 1966 revealed that there were 201 maternity homes. By 1981, this was down to just 99. NCFA estimates that the number has risen to 300 such facilities, large and small, in 1989. These settings where young women can make confidential decisions are still needed, but are expensive to maintain, and governmental expenditures are rarely used for this kind of care.

9. During the 1980's, especially since 1985, there has been a "new wave" of adoption and maternity service agencies in the United States. In some communities new adoption agencies are being opened up. The Open Door Adoption Agency of Thomasville, GA is just one of the estimated 30 new adoption agencies that have opened up since 1985. In other communities, older agencies have revitalized their adoption programs. Jewish Social Services of Rockville, MD is an example of an agency which has dramatically upgraded its services. There are several driving forces behind this "New Wave". One is the alternatives to abortion movement that has developed within the pro-life community. Many of these agencies are sectarian. A second force is the realization among many in the field that in entire communities the needs of troubled or unmarried parents and of infertile couples are not being adequately met. A third factor are adoptive parents, people who have been fortunate to build or add to a family through adoption and who hope to share their good fortune with others. New agencies that have been opened by adoptive parents include Gentle Shepherd Child Placement Services in Olathe, Kansas. A fourth factor is the movement by some attorneys involved in helping facilitate adoptions to work cooperatively with a licensed agency, as in the case of Gentle Care Adoption Services in Columbus, Ohio.

It is not the National Committee For Adoption's position that all of these trends are necessarily desireable or undesireable, but view it as a fact that many of these societal changes have probably affected the potential number of adoptable children.

5. Seven Ways NCFA Promotes the "Adoption Option"

Among the National Committee For Adoption's goals is working to "promote adoption as a positive option for young, single or troubled parents." NCFA attempts to accomplish this in seven ways:

1. NCFA promotes coordination and cooperation among many national groups and local service providers. The National Committee For Adoption was formed in 1980 by a group of agencies and individuals who felt that they needed an organized, national voice speaking up for adoption. While services to adolescent parents and abortion counseling were being developed, the adoption option has too often been misunderstood and neglected. It is time for the consideration of the adoption option to be discussed and understood by spokespersons for national organizations concerned about adolescent pregnancy. "Pro-life" and "pro-choice" counseling service workers alike need to know as much about the adoption option as possible. For the past nine years, NCFA has sponsored a conference on maternity services where focus on the adoption option has been a priority. Adolescent pregnancy counsellors from all kinds of programs have attended and have learned more about how to present the adoption option more positively. This is the kind of communication among agencies which we hope that legislation and programs will encourage.

2. NCFA collects and publishes accurate, current and useful information about the adoption process, laws, and services. Too often pregnancy counselors and social workers state that they just don't know that much about adoption. Too often, young women and their families simply turn to family friends or relatives to fill them in on the adoption process. Research shows that the media has focused much attention on the possibility of an adult adoptee coming back into his birth mother's life, but has done little to describe the kinds of important decisions which must be made in order to make a successful adoption plan. We believe that teenagers who become pregnant--and their families--must know more facts about adoption. Legal information about putative father's rights, independent adoptions, confidentiality, and relinquishment of parental rights are complex issues which differ State to State. Therefore, we have established a National Adoption Hotline (202)328-8072, to provide information and referral to local information and services resources concerning the adoption option to callers. We publish a variety of inexpensive informational brochures, and sell quality books on adoption from the NCFA Bookstore. And we are proud to add this 1989 Adoption Factbook to our repertoire. See the Appendix for the full list of publications currently available from the NCFA Bookstore.

3. NCFA supports better funding for maternity homes. Excellent care for pregnant adolescents carrying their babies to term requires adequate funding. Who should bear the costs of the health, educational, and social needs of a young pregnant woman who carries her baby to term? Adoptive parent fees can cover some of the costs of the medical care of the baby, as well as the counseling services couples receive in the course of becoming approved adoptive parents. Still, evidence has existed since the 1950's that lack of financial resources

to care for the unmarried mother during her pregnancy is one of the major factors which leads mothers to pursue unethical avenues, and sometimes, black market adoptions. Lawyers, doctors and other intermediaries have sometimes required adoptive parents to pay excessive fees in order to cover all of the actual costs, plus additional expenses, commissions, or fees for themselves or the biological mother. Young, pregnant women without other resources will sometimes agree to relinquish their babies in exchange for financial and health assistance--and privacy. This situation of economically and emotionally strapped young girls and high fees paid to liaisons by desperate adoptive parents is not an appropriate way to serve adolescent mothers of their infants. Government sources of funding--as well as private insurance plans and charitable contributions--are needed to support services to unmarried, young pregnant women. For example, the California legislature enacted "The Pregnancy Freedom of Choice Act" in 1978 through which the State pays for maternity home care, social services counseling, and education costs for young women who choose to use a maternity home setting. NCFA supports such an approach.

4. NCFA encourages Federal policy revisions, tax law credits or deductions for adoption expenses, and deductions for parental expenses incurred in providing a daughter with comprehensive services related to her unmarried pregnancy. The Federal Government has mandated that Medicaid be available for first-time pregnant women and the unborn child. Unfortunately, this well-intentioned Federal policy falls short in providing funds so that young, pregnant women can receive acceptable health and social care so as to consider the adoption option during pregnancy. With improved tax benefits, a top agenda item for President Bush, NCFA will work to expand tax benefits for adoption expenses.

5. NCFA endorses provision of services in a discrete fashion and in a comprehensive setting. If a young woman can be counselled to explore alternatives, build self-esteem, and set goals for her future during her pregnancy, she will be better able to understand the positive aspects of an adoption plan. Likewise, there are many young women who seek privacy to carry their baby to term. If young women knew that such services were available, more would choose adoption, and fewer would choose premarital marriage, or single parenting. Young, pregnant women have special needs which cannot be translated directly into foster care services--or services to delinquent and troubled girls. The body of practice knowledge developed in the past two decades about serving unmarried pregnant women in comprehensive maternity settings should not be abandoned.

6. NCFA encourages more research on the "Adoption Option". An inadequate factual base is totally destructive to sound practice or policy making. The last "characteristics" study of the differences between young women who choose adoption and those who choose to parent was in 1983, and that research is summarized in this book. More current data is needed because the adoption picture has changed. Emphasis on adoption research must be renewed. Private foundations, corporations

and government agencies need to support adequate evaluation and research of adoption programs. This will help to rejuvenate the social work practice and professional understanding of the role of adoption services.

7. NCFA encourages the Federal government, as well as national organizations, to work together to support efforts at the State and local level which support education and promotion of the positive option of adoption for young, single or troubled parents. Adoption programs should be viewed not only as "alternative to abortion" programs, but should also be viewed as an important component of any program seeking to provide "alternatives to adolescent parenthood." Agencies do exist which are licensed to do child-placing services and which want to be of assistance to programs which are counseling young women about their unplanned or unwanted pregnancy. Agencies do exist which have developed positive educational programs about the adoption option and would be happy to share their materials and brochures with others. Agencies do exist which provide young women a private, residential setting with comprehensive health, education and social services where they can examine their plans and goals for the future--with or without the baby. The National Committee For Adoption endorses these efforts, and plays a supportive role in Federal, State, and local partnerships promoting the "Adoption Option".

In addition, there is the Adoption Defense Fund, a separate, 501 (c) (4) organization which is affiliated with the National Committee For Adoption. Its goals are to educate lawmakers, the media and the public about a wide variety of issues related to adoption, including pregnancy counseling and maternity services. When necessary, the Adoption Defense Fund openly and assertively advocates for adopted persons, birth parents, adoptive parents, and all other individuals and groups touched by the institution of adoption. For more information about the Adoption Defense Fund write: Adoption Defense Fund, 1930 17th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009-6207.

6. Brief History of Adoption

Adoption is an ancient process of arranging parents for parentless children and children for childless couples when the birthparents are unwilling or unable to care for the child. The Bible speaks of adoption, and the Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, and Babylonians all had adoption systems in place. Then, if a wife bore no children, the husband sometimes took another woman to bear his children to provide for continuity of the family line (Kadushin, 1980, pp. 465-66).

Colonial America inherited no body of common law on adoption, and very few federal laws pertained to adoption (Kadushin, 1980, p. 466). Orphanages often used indentures in which apprenticed children were cared for by their masters; this practice continued even after the Civil War. Indenture was in reality a business which had its roots in the Elizabethan Poor Laws, in which the master provided food, shelter, and had the obligation of teaching the child a trade. Indenture was doomed by the prohibition of involuntary servitude with passage of the 13th Constitutional Amendment in 1865, and by the industrial revolution which moved crafts out of the home and into factories (Kadushin, 1980, pp. 314-5).

This system in which children were to earn their keep by learning a trade slowly gave way to the current one in which children were to be treated as if they were biological offspring. In 1851, Massachusetts statute pioneered changes by requiring:

1. Written consent of the birth parents.
2. Joint petition by both adoptive parents.
3. A decree of adoption by a judge.
4. Legal and complete severance between the child and the birthparents.

In 1891, Michigan law required that judges make investigations before a final decree; and in 1917, Minnesota was the first to require the agency or state welfare department make written recommendations to the court after investigation. Trial periods between placement and final decree were eventually initiated, as were sealed birth certificates and issuance of new birth certificates (Kadushin, 1980, pp. 466-8).

The historical development of adoption practice is therefore characterized by:

a. The independent, uncoordinated development of adoption regulations within states,
b. various roles and requirements for courts, welfare departments, agencies, and vital records departments,
c. progressively greater concern for the welfare of the child, and
d. lack of federal regulation.

After World War II and the Korean War, the stage was set for the steady increase in adoptions of foreign infants. Humanitarian relief, developmental assistance, and agreements with other countries' child welfare systems have been strengthened.

The 1950's saw the beginning of increased professionalization of adoption practice, primarily in the field of social work, a process which continued through the 1960's.

The 1960's and 1970's saw changes in legal and societal trends affecting adoptions. The legalization of abortion in 1973 probably caused a decline in the number of adoptable infants. This trend was exacerbated by increased societal acceptance of single motherhood and increased welfare aid for unmarried women who chose to raise their babies in female-headed households. The legal rights of biological fathers were strengthened, and the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act limited prerogatives in placements of children with Indian heritage in non-Indian adoptive families. With the development of "permanency planning" in the 1970's, attention to the needs of hard to place, special needs children increased.

In the 1980's, Federal funds increasingly supported special needs adoptions. Traditional confidential adoptions gave ground to more experimental open adoptions.

NCFA sees issues for the 1990's as surrogate parenting, special services for abandoned babies who test positive for AIDS, increased international cooperation about maternity and adoption services, and expanded post-legal adoption services for adoptive parents, children, and birthparents.

The dearth of federal adoption data, variations in State adoption practice today, and recent trends are more easily understood given this overview of the history of adoption in America.

PART II. ADOPTION REGULATIONS

7. Summary of State Adoption Regulations Based on National Committee For Adoption Survey

In 1988, NCFA conducted a national adoption survey of all states along with its collection of 1986 adoption data. Part II of the questionnaire used in this endeavor is shown in Appendix A, and the results are presented on the following pages. A brief summary of results for the 13 questionnaire items is as follows:

1. Independent adoption is relatively unrestricted in 34 states.
2. In independent adoptions in these same 34 states, 23 generally do not require a home study before placement.
3. In independent adoptions in these same 34 states, nearly all require a home study before finalization; but in five states, the study is only done if required by a judge.
4. In independent adoptions in 34 states, anonymity between the birth mother and the adoptive parents can usually be maintained.
5. It is legal for a private-for-profit organizations to be licensed in 32 states.
6. Prospective adoptive parents from another state can apply for adoption in 40 states, although in some cases only for special needs children or through a State agency. Provisions of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children must be followed in all states except New Jersey, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam.
7. It is legal for prospective adoptive parents to advertise for a baby in the newspapers in 32 states.
8. Very few states permit access to adoption records without a court order, and when access is permitted, it is usually for non-identifying information, at age 18 or over, and with a court order.
9. In 34 states adult adopted persons and their biological parents can meet each other, typically through a mutual consent adoption registry (22 states), or through an intermediary system known as "search and consent" (9 states), or because adoption records are not confidential (3 states).
10. The birth mother may sign relinquishment papers anywhere from immediately after birth to 15 days after birth, but no state honors relinquishment prior to birth.
11. The birth mother may revoke adoption consent up to 10 days after relinquishment in a large number of states, and some states even allow longer; however, her decision is irrevocable in about a dozen states.

12. The length of time between filing the petition to adopt and the final adoption is usually about 6 months, but often depends on the court or, is unspecified by law. In some agency adoptions in some states, the time length can be zero.

State laws contain many complexities on these regulations, so careful consultation with the agency and your attorney are necessary for a full explanation. Additional notes to regulations were often supplied by state adoption specialists, and these notes are presented after the regulations.

1988 STATE ADOPTION FACTS AND REGULATIONS

	Alabama	Alaska	Arizona	Arkansas
1. Is independent adoption legal in your State?..........	1. Bp may place., unlic. 3rd party may not.	1. Yes.	1. Yes.	1. Yes.
2. In an independent adoption, is a home study required before placement?....	2. No.	2. Yes.	2. No.	2. No, unless CO.
3. In an independent adoption, is a home study required before finalization?.................	3. Yes.	3. Yes.	3. Yes.	3. Yes.
4. In indep. adoption, can anonymity...be maintained, or must identifying info. be shared...?....................	4. See #1 above.	4. Anon can be maintained.	4. Ident info can not be shared.	4. Yes.
5. Is it legal for a private-for-profit organization to be licensed as a child placing agency?....	5. Yes.	5. Yes.	5. Yes.	5. Yes.
6. Can prospective adoptive parents from another State apply for adoption in your State?........................	6. No.	6. Yes.	6. Yes.	6. Yes, for special needs children.
7. Is it legal for prospective adoptive parents to advertise for a baby in the newspapers, etc.?.........	7. No.	7. Yes.	7. Yes.	7. Yes.
8. Does your State permit access to adoption records without a court order?........	8. Original bc from VS; non-ident from child placing ag.	8. Original bc available at age 18.	8. Only for non-ident information.	8. No.
9. What are State law(s) and agency practices regarding sealed records being available to adoptees?..	9. At age 19, ad may see bc. N-i. info avail from ag thru S&C.	9. See #8 above.	9. Only for non-ident info. Also by CO.	9. By CO, thru vol mutual consent Adoptive Registry.
10. How soon after birth can the birth mother sign relinquishment papers?........	10. Anytime after birth in indep. adoption; must be TPR in ag adoption.	10. Immediately.	10. 72 hours.	10. 24 hours.
11. What is the length of time given a birth mother to revoke her consent once she signs relinquishment papers?..	11. Not specified in adoption statute.	11. 10 days.	11. Relinquishments are irrevocable.	11. 10 days.
12. Must the biological father sign the relinquishment papers? Under what circumstances?...........	12. Yes, if paternity is established, must be notified of court procedures.	12. Yes, if he is listed on the birth certif.	12. Yes, if married to mother, or named as or claims to be father.	12. Yes, if he is identified.
13. What is the length of time between filing the petition to adopt and final adoption?.....................	13. 6 months from Interlocutory Order to Final Decree.	13. Depends on the court.	13. 6 months.	13. 6 months.

1988 STATE ADOPTION FACTS AND REGULATIONS

California	Colorado	Connecticut	Delaware	District of Columbia
1. Yes, direct placement by bp only.	1. Yes - parental placement only.	1. No. Only an identified adoption is legal.	1. No.	1. Yes.
2. Not before placement, but w/in 180 days of petition to adopt.	2. No if independent; yes if agency is guardian of child.	2. NA.	2. NA.	2. After petition, report is reqd by court.
3. Yes.	3. No, but judge may order a report.	3. NA.	3. NA.	3. Yes.
4. Identifying information must be shared.	4. Anonymity can be maintained.	4. NA.	4. NA.	4. Yes, if handled by atty. Otherwise, info. usually shared.
5. No.	5. Yes.	5. No.	5. Yes.	5. Yes.
6. Not usually, but possible through ICPC.	6. Yes, usually for snc, must be thru licensed agency.	6. Yes - for special needs children only.	6. Yes - if child is in State custody.	6. Yes, if w/in 25 miles of D.C. If indep., must reside in D.C. for 1 year.
7. No.	7. No.	7. No.	7. Not addressed in law - ag adoption only.	7. No.
8. Non-identifying info. is avail. Ident. info. if birth parent consents.	8. With consent of birth parents only.	8. Non-ident info avail. Ident info avail if bp consent.	8. Access by CO only.	8. No.
9. Identifying info. requires court order. Also see above.	9. Ident info thru VAR; agency may release non-ident info.	9. Search & consent avail. thru agency or the Department.	9. See #8.	9. Only if CO.
10. After birth and hosp. discharge. If hosp. 5+ days, approval of MD reqd.	10. No time limit, rel must be in court hearing.	10. 48 hours.	10. Law does not address; practice is post-medication.	10. 72 hours.
11. Prior to being filed w/Dept., or up to 30 days if agency and parent so request.	11. Several days after court hearing.	11. 30 days if bp rights terminated in Probate Court; 20 days if in Juvenile Court.	11. Until TPR granted.	11. Ten days.
12. Yes, in all circumstances.	12. Yes, at court hearing or must sign a waiver.	12. No, but rights must be terminated.	12. Yes, if known.	12. Yes, if known.
13. No specified interval. Usually 6-12 months.	13. 6 months (can be waived by judge).	13. In practice, one year after placement.	13. From 2-30 days.	13. 6 mos. to 1 year.

1988 STATE ADOPTION FACTS AND REGULATIONS

	Florida	Georgia	Hawaii	Idaho
1. Is independent adoption legal in your State?..........	1. Yes.	1. Yes, if child released directly to adoptive parents.	1. Yes.	1. Yes.
2. In an independent adoption, is a home study required before placement?....	2. Yes, a preliminary study.	2. Only for interstate placements.	2. No.	2. No.
3. In an independent adoption, is a home study required before finalization?.................	3. Yes.	3. Yes - home evaluation and court report.	3. No.	3. Yes.
4. In indep. adoption, can anonymity...be maintained, or must identifying info. be shared...?....................	4. Anonymity can be maintained.	4. Yes - ap name may be blank if name of someone to whom bp may revoke is given.	4. Yes. Anonymity can be maintained.	4. Anonymity can be maintained.
5. Is it legal for a private-for-profit organization to be licensed as a child placing agency?....	5. No.	5. No.	5. No.	5. Yes.
6. Can prospective adoptive parents from another State apply for adoption in your State?........................	6. Yes, but only if adoption is handled by agency.	6. Yes - thru ICPC, or private agency, but not to State agency.	6. Yes.	6. No, must be resident for 6 months.
7. Is it legal for prospective adoptive parents to advertise for a baby in the newspapers, etc.?.........	7. No.	7. No.	7. No.	7. No.
8. Does your State permit access to adoption records without a court order?........	8. No.	8. No.	8. No. Non-ident info avail at age 18+.	8. No.
9. What are State law(s) and agency practices regarding sealed records being available to adoptees?..	9. Ident info avail to ad 18+ w/signed consent of bp.	9. CO reqd.	9. If consent from bp on file ident info may be released.	9. CO reqd. to open record. If 18, VAR available.
10. How soon after birth can the birth mother sign relinquishment papers?........	10. Must be after birth; no time limit reqd.	10. No set time, but must be after birth.	10. Three days after birth.	10. No time required by law.
11. What is the length of time given a birth mother to revoke her consent once she signs relinquishment papers?..	11. No specific time.	11. 10 days.	11. Until pl of child; after pl requires a best interests of child finding.	11. 30 days.
12. Must the biological father sign the relinquishment papers? Under what circumstances?...........	12. If married to mother, paternity estab, or if he has provided support.	12. Yes, or his rights must be addressed and terminated.	12. Yes, if he is legal or adjudicated father or ackn paternity.	12. Yes, father's rights must also be terminated.
13. What is the length of time between filing the petition to adopt and final adoption?.....................	13. Ad must be in ap home at least 30 days.	13. Minimum 60 days.	13. Petition not heard until after due notice to bp; takes 131 days on average.	13. 30 days.

1988 STATE ADOPTION FACTS AND REGULATIONS

Illinois	Indiana	Iowa	Kansas	Kentucky
1. Yes.	1. Yes.	1. Yes.	1. Yes.	1. Yes, w/ written perm. of Secy of the Cabinet for Human Res. or Commissioner of DSS.
2. No.	2. No.	2. Yes.	2. No.	2. Yes.
3. An investigation and report to the court is required.	3. Court report required only.	3. Yes, plus post-placement reports.	3. Yes.	3. Statute requires homestudy before placement.
4. Anonymity can be maintained.	4. Anonymity can be maintained.	4. Anonymity can be maintained.	4. Anonymity can be maintained.	4. Anonymity may be maintained; identifying info need not be shared.
5. Yes.	5. Yes.	5. Agencies may apply for a license.	5. Yes.	5. Yes.
6. Yes.	6. Yes.	6. Yes, for special needs children.	6. Yes.	6. Yes, if a Kentucky child has been identified for placement with them through indep. adopt.
7. Yes.	7. Yes.	7. Yes.	7. No.	7. No.
8. No.	8. No.	8. No, except for de-identified medical & developmental info.	8. Yes.	8. No.
9. Through the adoption registry, after age 21.	9. Through the IN adoption history registry (VAR).	9. At age 21+, adoptee may apply to court for "good cause".	9. At 18+, original birth certificate available.	9. Ident. info. available to ad 21+ with bp consent; Search and consent available.
10. Not less than 72 hours after birth.	10. 48 hours (State policy).	10. 72 hours.	10. Anytime.	10. Court termination of parental rights after 5 days.
11. Irrevocable, unless obtained by fraud or duress.	11. Until finalization.	11. Until termination of parental rights.	11. Until finalization. Irrevocable if signed before a judge.	11. None, TPR final.
12. Both parents must consent, surr. or term. parental rights.	12. Yes.	12. Yes - all circumstances when known.	12. Yes, if known.	12. Yes, or rights must be invol. term. if mother named him as father or if he decl. his paternity.
13. Six months after date of interim order, this period can be waived.	13. At discretion of court.	13. 6 months from placement of child until decree.	13. At least 30 days.	13. Usually within 180 days.

1988 STATE ADOPTION FACTS AND REGULATIONS

	Louisiana	Maine	Maryland	Massachusetts
1. Is independent adoption legal in your State?..........	1. Yes.	1. Yes.	1. Yes.	1. No. Only an identified adoption is legal.
2. In an independent adoption, is a home study required before placement?....	2. No.	2. No.	2. No.	2. NA.
3. In an independent adoption, is a home study required before finalization?.................	3. Yes, as part of the request of the court for a report of findings.	3. Yes.	3. Yes.	3. NA.
4. In indep. adoption, can anonymity...be maintained, or must identifying info. be shared...?....................	4. Yes. Anonymity can be maintained.	4. Anonymity OK; medical & genetic info must be shared.	4. Anonymity can be maintained.	4. NA.
5. Is it legal for a private-for-profit organization to be licensed as a child placing agency?....	5. Yes.	5. No distinction made in statute.	5. Yes.	5. No.
6. Can prospective adoptive parents from another State apply for adoption in your State?.........................	6. Yes but the birth parent must meet LA domiciliary requirements.	6. Yes, w/home study and using ICPC guidelines.	6. May apply if approved home study obtained.	6. Yes.
7. Is it legal for prospective adoptive parents to advertise for a baby in the newspapers, etc.?.........	7. Yes.	7. Yes.	7. Yes.	7. Must be licensed agency or organization.
8. Does your State permit access to adoption records without a court order?........	8. No, only w/CO.	8. No, but medical/genetic info. avail thru Court petition.	8. No.	8. Certain non-ident info only.
9. What are State law(s) and agency practices regarding sealed records being available to adoptees?..	9. LA Vol. Reg. for bp & adult matched by reg.	9. Thru VAR run by Vital Statistics.	9. Mutual Consent Voluntary Adoption Registry.	9. Ident info to adult ad & bp if consent letter w/agency.
10. How soon after birth can the birth mother sign relinquishment papers?........	10. 5 days after birth.	10. Immediately; must be done in probate court.	10. Child must be at least 15 days old.	10. 4 days.
11. What is the length of time given a birth mother to revoke her consent once she signs relinquishment papers?..	11. 30 days.	11. Varies with probate judges.	11. 90 days for birthmother & birthfather.	11. None.
12. Must the biological father sign the relinquishment papers? Under what circumstances?...........	12. Yes, only if named on the birth certif. or has formally acknow. child.	12. Yes, if known. Can waive right; must be given notice.	12. Yes, if known, or court may terminate his rights.	12. Yes, unless Court terminates parental rights.
13. What is the length of time between filing the petition to adopt and final adoption?.....................	13. DHHR Public, Agency - 6 month. Independent - 1 year.	13. Varies, week to several months.	13. 2-6 months.	13. Variable.

Michigan	Minnesota	Mississippi	Missouri	Montana
1. No.	1. No, (bp may place directly in limited circumstances).	1. Yes.	1. Yes.	1. Placement by birth parent only.
2. NA.	2. No.	2. If the judge requires a study.	2. No.	2. No.
3. NA.	3. Yes.	3. If the judge requires a study.	3. Yes.	3. Yes.
4. NA.	4. Anon. not maintained as bp must name ap as part of consent.	4. Anonymity can be maintained.	4. Anonymity can be maintained.	4. Info. must be shared.
5. Yes.	5. No.	5. Yes.	5. Statute does not specify.	5. No.
6. Yes.	6. Yes, but must work thru an auth. child placing ag in their State.	6. Yes.	6. No.	6. No.
7. Yes.	7. No.	7. Yes.	7. Yes.	7. No.
8. Yes for non-ident info. Ident. info if consent of bp.	8. No.	8. No.	8. No.	8. No.
9. See #8.	9. At 21 ad may get orig bc w/bp consent. Ag reqd to try to locate bp.	9. Court order required.	9. S&C; Nonident. info. avail. to adult ad. Or, CO needed.	9. Court Order (if good cause shown).
10. Not specified; must be after birth.	10. Any time after birth; agency policy usually to wait after hospital disch.	10. 72 hours.	10. 48 hours after birth.	10. No time limit.
11. Can only revoke with consent of ag prior to placement.	11. 10 working days.	11. Irrevocable.	11. Before dispositional hearing, w/30 day right of appeal in certain cases.	11. Requires petition of court; may be filed until finalization.
12. Biological father's rights must be terminated.	12. Yes, if he admits paternity or meets statutory requirements.	12. Yes.	12. Yes, if he is known or acknowl. paternity.	12. Yes unless terminated.
13. 1 year (court may extend to two years).	13. 3 month minimum.	13. None for agency placements; 6 months for other placements.	13. 9 months.	13. Not specified in law.

1988 STATE ADOPTION FACTS AND REGULATIONS

	Nebraska	Nevada	New Hampshire	New Jersey
1. Is independent adoption legal in your State?..........	1. Placement by bp only; lawyers may act as agent of ap.	1. Yes.	1. Yes.	1. Yes.
2. In an independent adoption, is a home study required before placement?....	2. No.	2. Yes.	2. Yes, req must be made to the Court 30 days before child's placement.	2. No.
3. In an independent adoption, is a home study required before finalization?.................	3. Yes.	3. Yes.	3. Yes.	3. Yes.
4. In indep. adoption, can anonymity...be maintained, or must identifying info. be shared...?....................	4. Anonymity can be maintained.	4. Identifying info. must be shared between bp and ap.	4. Yes.	4. Info. usually shared as bp must directly place child w/family.
5. Is it legal for a private-for-profit organization to be licensed as a child placing agency?....	5. Yes, license required.	5. No.	5. No.	5. No.
6. Can prospective adoptive parents from another State apply for adoption in your State?........................	6. Yes, if compliance with ICPC.	6. Usually not. State Welf. Div. may place SNC out-of-State w/home study.	6. No.	6. Yes.
7. Is it legal for prospective adoptive parents to advertise for a baby in the newspapers, etc.?.........	7. Yes.	7. No.	7. No statutes prohibit such advertising.	7. Yes.
8. Does your State permit access to adoption records without a court order?........	8. No.	8. CO reqd. Has mutual consent registry. N-i. info. avail w/o CO.	8. No.	8. No, but ag. may provide non-ident. info. on case it handled.
9. What are State law(s) and agency practices regarding sealed records being available to adoptees?..	9. If adoption before 9/1/88, S&C if age 25+. After 9/1/88, S&C 21+.	9. Mutual consent registry for adoptees 18+ and birth parents.	9. At 21+: n-i. info. Ident. info. if consent of bp & CO. Ident. info. w/CO.	9. Sealed records not avail.; at 18+ n-i info. avail; ag may do S&C. Registry.
10. How soon after birth can the birth mother sign relinquishment papers?........	10. Varies.	10. 72 hours.	10. 72 hours.	10. 72 hours.
11. What is the length of time given a birth mother to revoke her consent once she signs relinquishment papers?..	11. Irrevocable.	11. Relinquishment is irrevocable.	11. Until the final decree of adoption.	11. No set time.
12. Must the biological father sign the relinquishment papers? Under what circumstances?...........	12. If father claims paternity w/in 5 days of birth.	12. Yes. If father does not consent, his rights must be term. in court.	12. Yes.	12. If ident., must sign relinquishment or denial of paternity.
13. What is the length of time between filing the petition to adopt and final adoption?.....................	13. Six months.	13. 6 months.	13. 6 months minimum.	13. At least 6 months unless child is related.

1988 STATE ADOPTION FACTS AND REGULATIONS

New Mexico	New York	North Carolina	North Dakota	Ohio
1. Yes.	1. Yes.	1. Yes, if direct placement by bp with ap.	1. No. Only an identified adoption is legal.	1. Yes.
2. Yes.	2. No.	2. Investigation for all children under 12.	2. NA.	2. Yes.
3. Yes.	3. Yes.	3. Yes, for court report.	3. NA.	3. Yes.
4. Anonymity can be maintained.	4. Anonymity can be maintained.	4. No.	4.NA.	4. Anonymity can be maintained.
5. Yes.	5. No.	5. Not addressed in law or regulation.	5. Yes.	5. Yes.
6. Yes.	6. Yes.	6. Not illegal, but agencies usually don't handle out-of-State adoptions.	6. Yes.	6. Yes.
7. Yes.	7. Yes.	7. No.	7. Yes.	7. No.
8. No.	8. No, non-ident info avail to ad at 21.	8. No.	8. Non-ident info avail at age 21 only.	8. Yes for adoptions prior to 1964; for others see #9.
9. At 18+, w/CO only; ad and bp may file consent with District Court.	9. VAR avail when ad is 21.	9. No access at any age w/o CO.	9. Search & Consent avail at age 21.	9. At age 21+ ad may file petition in Probate Court for identifying info.
10. 72 hours.	10. No statutory time limit.	10. No time limit indicated by law.	10. 72 hours.	10. 72 hours.
11. Irrevocable.	11. Agency adoption-30 days; private adop. 45 days; court surrender-none.	11. 3 mos. in non-agency; 1 mo. in agency relinquishment.	11. 10 days.	11. Until temporary or final decree court will hear petition.
12. Yes.	12. Yes, identified fathers & men who register w/Putative Father's Registry.	12. Yes, unless court action rules out need.	12. Yes, if identified.	12. Yes.
13. Child less than 1 year, w/in 90 days of placement; child greater than 1 year, w/in 180 days of placement.	13. 6 months (may be waived).	13. Agency and independent - one year.	13. Minimum of 6 months.	13. 6 months.

1988 STATE ADOPTION FACTS AND REGULATIONS

	Oklahoma	Oregon	Pennsylvania	Rhode Island
1. Is independent adoption legal in your State?..........	1. Yes.	1. Yes.	1. Yes.	1. Yes.
2. In an independent adoption, is a home study required before placement?....	2. No. Judge may order home study before placement.	2. No.	2. No.	2. Yes.
3. In an independent adoption, is a home study required before finalization?.................	3. Yes.	3. Yes, unless waived by OR Child Serv. Div. Not done on sp ad unless ps or ler.	3. Yes.	3. Yes.
4. In indep. adoption, can anonymity...be maintained, or must identifying info. be shared...?....................	4. Anonymity may be maintained.	4. Anonymity may be maintained.	4. Anonymity may be maintained.	4. Anonymity can be maintained.
5. Is it legal for a private-for-profit organization to be licensed as a child placing agency?....	5. No.	5. Yes.	5. Yes.	5. No.
6. Can prospective adoptive parents from another State apply for adoption in your State?........................	6. Yes.	6. Bp, ad, or pet must live in OR 6 months before petitioning.	6. Yes.	6. Yes.
7. Is it legal for prospective adoptive parents to advertise for a baby in the newspapers, etc.?.........	7. No.	7. Yes.	7. Yes.	7. No.
8. Does your State permit access to adoption records without a court order?........	8. No.	8. No, except for Voluntary Adoption Registry.	8. No.	8. No.
9. What are State law(s) and agency practices regarding sealed records being available to adoptees?..	9. Ag practices vary. OK DHS releases n-i med & soc history to ad.	9. By court order. Age 21 for voluntary adoption registry.	9. S & C avail. to ap, or to ad if 18+ thru court or agency.	9. CO required.
10. How soon after birth can the birth mother sign relinquishment papers?........	10. Immediately.	10. Immediately.	10. At least 72 hours after birth.	10. Child must be 15 days old.
11. What is the length of time given a birth mother to revoke her consent once she signs relinquishment papers?..	11. 30 days.	11. Up to the date of adoption placement declaration.	11. Prior to decree of par term or decree of adoption.	11. W/in 12 mos. of term bp may petition court.
12. Must the biological father sign the relinquishment papers? Under what circumstances?...........	12. No, but notification req by publication, direct service and/or mail.	12. Yes, if he is the legal father or has maintained contact.	12. Yes.	12. Yes, if identified and whereabouts known.
13. What is the length of time between filing the petition to adopt and final adoption?.....................	13. 6 months.	13. Approximately 90 days.	13. No specific time limit.	13. Child must be in home 6 months.

1988 STATE ADOPTION FACTS AND REGULATIONS

South Carolina	South Dakota	Tennessee	Texas	Utah
1. Yes.	1. Yes.	1. Yes.	1. Yes.	1. Yes.
2. Yes; may be waived for good cause.	2. Yes.	2. No.	2. No.	2. No.
3. Yes.	3. Yes.	3. Yes.	3. Yes.	3. No, must be requested by Court.
4. Anon can be maintained.	4. Anonymity may be maintained.	4. Anonymity may be maintained.	4. No, info must be shared.	4. No.
5. Yes.	5. Yes.	5. No.	5. Yes, but fee may not exceed expenses for bp and child.	5. Yes.
6. SNC only, in best interests of child, or military stationed in SC.	6. No.	6. One applicant must be a TN resident.	6. Yes.	6. Yes.
7. Yes.	7. Yes.	7. Yes.	7. Yes.	7. Yes.
8. No.	8. CO reqd to open records to ap or adult ad.	8. No.	8. Yes, for non-ident. info.	8. No.
9. CO reqd. Voluntary mutual consent registry.	9. Dept Soc Serv has voluntary adoption registry.	9. Non-ident. info avail to ap or minor ad. S&C available if ad is 25+.	9. CO or through Voluntary Adoption Registry.	9. VAR available to ad age 21+.
10. No time period specified by law.	10. 5 days after birth, petition may be filed.	10. Immediately.	10. Anytime after the child's birth.	10. No time specified. Birthmother must be free of medication.
11. Relinquishment is irrevocable.	11. Voluntary termination - 30 day appeal period.	11. 15 days.	11. Irr if lic ag; 60 days if unlic entity is managing conservator.	11. Can petition for withdrawal at any time up to decree.
12. Only if married, living w/mother, or maintaining relationship w/mother or child.	12. Yes - if named or his identity is known.	12. Yes, if he is ident as father or acknowledges paternity.	12. If married to mother yes; if not, may waive interest.	12. Yes, if father files claim to paternity & willing to support child.
13. 90-180 days; special needs 90-365 days.	13. 6 mos. waiting period before pet filed, 10 days from filing pet & hearing.	13. 6 months waiting period between filing and final decree.	13. 6 months, but court may waive time limit.	13. Child must be in home of ap for 6 months.

1988 STATE ADOPTION FACTS AND REGULATIONS

	Vermont	Virginia	Washington	West Virginia
1. Is independent adoption legal in your State?..........	1. Yes.	1. Yes, direct placement by bp.	1. Yes.	1. Yes.
2. In an independent adoption, is a home study required before placement?....	2. No - when parties are VT residents.	2. No.	2. Yes.	2. No.
3. In an independent adoption, is a home study required before finalization?.................	3. May be waived by probate judge.	3. Yes, except in sp adoptions or as stipulated in VA Code.	3. Yes, Pre- and post- placement reports required.	3. No, but usually requested by Court.
4. In indep. adoption, can anonymity...be maintained, or must identifying info. be shared...?....................	4. Anonymity can be maintained.	4. Ident. info must be shared.	4. Anonymity may be maintained.	4. Anonymity can be maintained.
5. Is it legal for a private-for-profit organization to be licensed as a child placing agency?....	5. No.	5. Yes.	5. Yes.	5. Yes.
6. Can prospective adoptive parents from another State apply for adoption in your State?........................	6. Yes.	6. Yes, thru ICPC and licensed agency in receiving State.	6. State agency - no Private agency - yes.	6. No.
7. Is it legal for prospective adoptive parents to advertise for a baby in the newspapers, etc.?.........	7. Yes.	7. Yes, but intermediaries may not.	7. Yes.	7. Yes.
8. Does your State permit access to adoption records without a court order?........	8. No.	8. Non-ident info only to adult adop, placement ag, or ap.	8. No.	8. No.
9. What are State law(s) and agency practices regarding sealed records being available to adoptees?..	9. Order from Probate Judge reqd if compelling need for info.	9. Adult ad can petition circuit court, which then requests an invest.	9. Court order required.	9. By CO only.
10. How soon after birth can the birth mother sign relinquishment papers?........	10. Immediately.	10. Immed, effective in 10 days.	10. May sign prior to birth but court TPR held until 2 days after birth.	10. 72 hours.
11. What is the length of time given a birth mother to revoke her consent once she signs relinquishment papers?..	11. 10 days.	11. Anytime prior to placement if agency; ind requires court action.	11. Anytime until approved by court. No sooner than 48 hrs. after birth.	11. Cannot be revoked if signed after 72 hours.
12. Must the biological father sign the relinquishment papers? Under what circumstances?...........	12. Yes, under every circumstance.	12. Yes, either thru consent or CO.	12. Yes or served notice through publication.	12. Yes. Bf must be notified, thru publication if necessary.
13. What is the length of time between filing the petition to adopt and final adoption?.....................	13. 6 months from placement to finalization.	13. Varies, from when petition is filed up to 12 months.	13. No specified time period.	13. Petition can be filed 6 mos. after placement.

Wisconsin	Wyoming
1. Yes; home study and court TPR required.	1. Yes.
2. Yes.	2. No, but judge may order one.
3. Yes.	3. No, but judge may order one.
4. Info. must be shared; name, age, address of bp and prospective ap.	4. Anonymity maintained unless birth mother decides otherwise.
5. Yes.	5. Yes.
6. Only WI residents can adopt in WI.	6. ICPC used. Must be residents for 60 days.
7. Yes.	7. Yes.
8. Under specific conditions. See 9 below.	8. No.
9. At 18+, n-i info. At 21+, ident. info. if bp consent. S&C available.	9. Sealed unless CO. Non-ident medical info. may be shared.
10. No time limit. Relinquishment only by Court ordered termination of parental rights.	10. Anytime; must be after birth.
11. Irrevocable after court termination of parental rights.	11. Irrevocable, unless judge deems mother was under duress.
12. Relinquishment only by court ordered termination of parental rights.	12. Yes, if identified.
13. Six months or more with some exceptions.	13. 6 months (may be waived by judge).

Definitions of terms:

Interlocutory decree of adoption: a temporary decree; courts generally order a study of the adoptive placement during the time between the interlocutory decree and the final decree.

Relinquishment: termination of parental rights which is effected prior to the adoption decree.

Consent: a signed consent to the adoption executed by the biological parent; where only a consent is executed, full termination of parental rights usually occurs at the time of the final adoption decree.

Identified adoption: an adoptive placement where prospective adoptive parents independently locate birthmothers and agency then provides counselling, home study, etc. (also known as designated or targeted adoption).

Independent adoption: adoptive placement made by a private party and not by a licensed or authorized agency; also called private placements.

Search and Consent procedures: Upon request, public or private agency, or court, will attempt to locate birthparent to inquire about consent to releasing identifying information.

Mutual consent adoption registry: allows adoptees and birthparents to register with a state or agency operated registry if they desire a meeting; when a match is made, the state or agency will facilitate a meeting.

Abbreviations:

ad: adoptee.
AWI: Affidavit of Waiver of Interest.
ag: agency.
agr: agreement.
anon: anonymity.
ap: adoptive parent(s).
auth: authorized.
avail: available.
bc: birth certificate.
bf: birth father(s).
bm: birth mother(s).
bp: birthparent(s).
CO: Court Order.
decl: declared.
ea: entrustment agreement
ICPC: Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children.
ident: identifying.
ind: independent adoption.
invest: investigation.
invol: involuntarily.
irr: irrevocable.
ler: law enforcement record.
lic: licensed.
n-i: non-identifying.
par: parental.
perm: permission.
pet: petitioner.
pl: placement.
ps: protective service.
ref: referral.
rel: relinquishment.
reg: registration or registry.
req: request.
reqd: required.
rts: rights.
S&C: Search and Consent.
surr: surrender.
snc: special needs children.
sp: step parent.
term: terminate, termination.
TPR: Termination of parental rights.
unlic: unlicensed.
VS: Vital Statistics.
VAR: Voluntary Adoption Registry.
VCR: Voluntary Central Registry.
vol: voluntary.
w/: with.
w/o: without.

Additional notes:

1) The Federal Indian Child Welfare Act requires that, in adoptions involving Indian children, birthparents may not sign consent or relinquishment prior to ten (10) days after birth.

2) The Federal Indian Child Welfare Act allows that, in adoptions involving Indian children, a birthparent may revoke consent until final termination of parental rights or finalization of the adoption, as the case may be.

3) Pre-placement home studies are required by the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children for interstate adoptions (all jurisdictions except NJ, DC, Puerto Rico, and Guam are signatories) and for international adoptions.

ADDITIONAL NOTES TO REGULATIONS IF SUPPLIED BY STATE ADOPTION SPECIALISTS IN RESPONSE TO PART II OF NCFA SURVEY

Alabama - Code of Alabama (Adoption Statutes), and Adoption Policy Manual

California - California Civil Code Sections 224m, 224p, 226.2, 226.5, 226.6, 227 (b), 230.5, 230.6, 224 q, 265, 1798.24 (r) and (s); also Manual of Policies and Procedures Chapter 70-400; also Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 89004 (b) (4) and Section 30621 and 30625.

Colorado - Colorado statutes 19-5-104 (d), 19-5-206 (2), 19-5-207 (1), 19-5-106 (1), 19-5-215, 19-5-103, 19-5-208 (1), Colorado Children's Code, State Department of Social Services Licensing Division.

Connecticut - Connecticut State Statute 17-49b-3, 45-61d, Administrative regulations DCYS Sec 45-63-6, Public Act 87-555.

District of Columbia - D.C. Adoption Code, Relinquishment Bill 5-135 in the Council of DC, D.C. Relinquishment for Adoption Reform Act of 1983, Superior Court of DC - Family Division and the DHS Statement of Policies and Procedures.

Florida - Florida Statute, Chapter 63.

Georgia - Georgia Code 19-8; Rules of Georgia DHR, Chapter 290-2-12.

Hawaii - Adoption Manual, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 578, Section 578-15, Section 578-2 (f), Section 578-2.

Illinois - Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter 40, ss 1501 et. seq., ss 1508, ss 1502 (2b), ss 1522-1s, ss 1522-3, ss 1511-9, ss 1513-11, ss 1517-14, ss 1520-16.

Iowa - Iowa Code, Chapters 238, 600.

Louisiana - L.A.R.S. 9:402, 9:427, 9:421-9:441, 40:91-40:99, 9:422.7, 9:422.10, 9:422.4, LA.DHHR/OMD/Adoption Petition Policy Manual, Division of Licensing and Certification, Act 473 of the 1987 Regular Legislative Session, amending L.A.R.S. 9:422.5 and L.A.R.S. 9:422.9.

Maine - See Title 19, Chap. 9, Sec. 532, Sec. 532 c, Sec. 533, Sec. 534, Sec., 537 A, Sec. 537-A #4 and Title 22, Chap. 1671, Sec. 8204 #2. Revisions of Maine adoption policies and practices to be completed April 1989. Contact Martha B. Nabor, Adoption Task Force, Dept. of Human Services, State House Station #11, Augusta, ME 04333. Also available: "Registry Brochure", "Thinking About Adoption? A Guide to Adoption Services in Maine", "Rules for Licensing Agencies".

Maryland - Subtitles 3, and 4a, Family Law Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.

Massachusetts - Massachusetts Department of Social Services Regulations at 110 CMR 7.508, 7.509, 7.509(3), Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 28-A, Chapter 210 (ss 2, 5C, and 5D).

Michigan - Adoption Code Sections 43 (1) (a) (v), 24 (1), 27, 28, 29, 29 (9), 37, 56, 67, and 68.

Missouri - Statutes 210.480 (2) RS Mo, 453.070.1, 453.080.2, 453.120, 453.121, 453.050.01, 211.442-211.487.5, 453.060, 453.080.1

Nebraska - Nebraska Statute Sec. 43-701, 43-107, 43-701 thru 709, 43-1101, 43-113, 43-124 thru 146, 43-109.

Nevada - Nevada Revised Statute 127; Nevada State Welfare Division, Social Service Manual Section 401.

New Hampshire - RSA 170-B5, B 5a, B 7, B 9, B-10-, B-14, B-15, B-18.

New York - NY Domestic Relations Law, Section 115-115h, Social Services Law Section 373c, Public Health Law Section 4138.

North Carolina - Chapter 48 of the General Statutes of North Carolina 131D-10.1 et. seq., 48-3 (1987 amendments), 48-16, 48-19, 48-7, 48-4, 48-38, 48-25, 48-11, 48-9, 48-21.

North Dakota - North Dakota Century Code Sections 14, 15, and 16.

Ohio - Ohio Revised Code 5103.16, 3107.06, 3107.08, 3107.09, 3107.12, 3107.13, 3107.39, 3107.41, 3107, 5103.02, 5103.03, and 5103.17: Also 6323 Child Welfare Manual.

Pennsylvania - Pennsylvania Adoption Law ss 2102, 2312, 2531, 2535, 2711 (c), 2901, and 2905 (a). Act 195, Public Welfare Code Article IX and X.

Rhode Island - General Laws of Rhode Island 1956, 15-7-2, 15-7-3, 15-7-12, R.I. Supreme Court Rule 4 and 5.

South Carolina - Adoption Act 157, amending 20-7-1780, South Carolina Code of Laws 1976, Section 20-7-1740, 20-7-1780, 20-7-1670, 20-7-1720, 20-7-1690, 20-7-1760.

South Dakota - South Dakota Codified Law 25-6-9.1, 25-6-10, 26-6-11, 25-6-15, 25-5A, 25-6.

Texas - Texas Family Code 16.031, 15.03 (a), 15.03 (d), 15: 041, 16.04; Human Resource Code.

Virginia - Code of Virginia: Section 63.1-220 through Section 63.1-230-3 and Virginia Department of Social Services, Manual of Policy and Procedures, Vol. III.

Washington - RCW 26.33, 74.15.020, 9A.64.030, RCW 74.15.140, RCW 26.33.330, RCW 26.33.160.

West Virginia - WV Code Chapter 48.

Wisconsin - WI Statutes S48.837, S48.837 (4)(c), S48.837 (6)(b), S48.837 (2), S48.60, S48.61, S48.82, S48.988, S48.432, S48.433, S48.40-43, S48.90.

8. Immigration and Naturalization Service: Summary of Petition Procedures for Adopting a Foreign Infant

FASTEST WAY	OTHER WAY
How To Start	How to Start
1. File advance processing application before orphan is known.	1. Find an orphan to adopt.
2. Find an orphan to adopt.	2. File orphan petition in behalf of orphan.
3. Then file orphan petition in behalf of orphan.	
Forms and Documents	Forms and Documents
Advance Processing	
1. Form I-600A, Application for Advance Processing of Orphan Petition.	1. Form I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative.
2. The fingerprints of each prospective adoptive parent on Form FD-258.	2. The fingerprints of each adoptive or prospective adoptive parent on Form FD-258.
3. Proof of the prospective petitioner's United States citizenship.	3. Proof of the petitioner's United States citizenship.
4. Proof of the marriage of the prospective petitioner and spouse, if married.	4. Proof of the marriage of the petitioner and spouse, if married.
5. Proof of termination of any prior marriages of the prospective petitioner and spouse or unmarried prospective petitioner, if applicable.	5. Proof of termination of any prior marriages of the petitioner and spouse or unmarried petitioner, if applicable.
6. A favorably recommended home study.	6. A favorably recommended home study.
Orphan Petition*	
1. Form I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative.	

2. Proof of the orphan's age.

3. Death certificate(s) of the orphan's parent(s), if applicable.

4. Evidence that the orphan's sole or surviving parent cannot provide for the orphan's care and has, in writing, forever or irrevocably released the orphan for emigration and adoption, if the orphan has only one parent.

5. A final decree of adoption, if the orphan has been adopted abroad.

6. Evidence that the orphan has been unconditionally abandoned to an orphanage, if the orphan is in an orphanage.

7. Evidence that the preadoption requirements, if any, of the state of the orphan's proposed residence have been met, if the orphan is to be adopted in the United States.

7. Proof of the orphan's age

8. Death certificate(s) of the orphan's parent(s), if applicable.

9. Evidence that the orphan's sole or surviving parent cannot provide for the orphan's care and has, in writing, forever or irrevocably released the orphan for emigration and adoption, if the orphan has only one parent.

10. A final decree of adoption, if the orphan has been adopted abroad.

11. Evidence that the orphan has been unconditionally abandoned to an orphanage, if the orphan is in an orphanage.

12. Evidence that the preadoption requirements, if any, of the state of the orphan's proposed residence have been met, if the orphan is to be adopted in the United States.

---

*If filed while an advance processing application is pending or within one year of a favorable determination in a completed advance processing case.

Detailed information is available in an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Publication Form 249, The Immigration of Adopted and Prospective Adoptive Children. The following is a list of INS offices, current as of February 1989.

U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Central Office, 425 I Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20536 (202)633-4316

Eastern Region - Regional Office

Federal Building, Elmwood Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401 (802)951-6248

Eastern Region - District Offices

Baltimore District Office, E.A. Garmatz Federal Building, 101 West Lombard, Baltimore, MD 21201 (301)962-2010

Boston District Office, John F. Kennedy Federal Building, Government Center, Boston, MA 02203 (617)565-3094

Providence Sub-Office, 203 John O. Pastore Federal Building, Providence, RI 02903 (401)528-5315/5316

Hartford Sub-Office, Ribicoff Federal Building, 450 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103-3060 (203)240-3171

Buffalo District Office, 68 Court Street, Buffalo, NY 14202 (716)885-3367

Albany Sub Office, U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, Room 220, 445 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207 (518)472-7140

New York District Office, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278 (212)264-5942

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, VI Sub-Office, Federal Building, P.O. Box 629, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, VI 00801 (809)774-1390

Newark District Office, Federal Building, 970 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102 (201)645-3350

Portland District Office, 739 Warren Ave., Portland, ME 04103 (207)780-3352

Philadelphia District Office, Independence Mall West, 601 Market Street, Room 1321, U.S. Courthouse, Philadelphia, PA 19106 (215)597-7305

Pittsburgh Sub-Office, U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 2130 Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

San Juan District Office, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, G.P.O. Box 5068, San Juan, PR 00936 (809)753-4343

St. Albans Sub-Office, Federal Building, P.O. Box 328, St. Albans, VT 05478 (802)524-6742/6743

Washington District Office, 4420 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203 (703)235-4002

Norfolk Sub-Office, Norfolk Federal Building 200 Granby Mall, Room 439, Norfolk, VA 23510 (804)441-3081

Southern Region - Regional Offices

Dallas Regional Office, Skyline Center, Bldg. C, 311 North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX 75207 (214)767-6062

Southern Region - District Offices

Atlanta District Office, 77 Forsyth Street, S.W., Room G-85, Atlanta, GA 30303 (404)331-5158

Atlanta Sub-Office, Charlotte, NC, 6 Woodlawn Green, Room 138, Charlotte, NC 28217 (704)523-1704

Dallas District Office, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Federal Bldg., Room 6A 21, Dallas, TX 75242 (214)767-0514

Oklahoma Sub-Office, 4149 Hightline Boulevard, Suite 300, Oklahoma City, OK 73108 (405)231-5943

El Paso District Office, 700 E. San Antonio, P.O. Box 9398 79984, El Paso, TX 79901 (915)534-6333

Albuquerque Sub-Office, 517 Gold Avenue, S.W., Box 567, Room 1114, Albuquerque, NM 87103 (505)766-2690

Harlingen District Office, 2102 Teege Road, Harlingen, TX 78550 (512)425-7333

Brownsville Sub-Office, 1500 East Elizabeth Street, Room 2120, Brownsville, TX 78520 (512)546-1675

Port Isabel Sub-Office, Alien Processing Center (PIC), Route 3, Box 341, Los Fresnos, TX 78566 (512)233-4431

Houston District Office, 509 North Belt, Houston, TX 77060 (713)847-7951

Miami District Office, 7880 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33138

Fort Lauderdale/Port Everglades Sub-Office, 1800 Eller Drive, Suite 401, P.O. Box 13054, Port Everglades Station, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316 (305)527-7298/7425

Freeport Bahamas Sub-Office, P.O. Box F-2664, Freeport, Grand Bahama, Bahamas, Phone: 9-0-(809)352-5586

Jacksonville Sub-Office, 400 W. Bay Street, Room G-18, P.O. Box 35029, Jacksonville, FL 32202 (904)791-2624/2625 (Recording)

Key West Sub-Office, 301 Simonton Street, Room 334, P.O. Box 86 33041, Key West, FL 33040 (305)296-2233/536-4274

Nassau, Bahamas Sub-Office, U.S. Immigration/Nassau, 7415 N.W. 19th Street, Suite II, Miami, FL 33126 Phone: 9-0-(809)327-7125

Tampa Sub-Office, 5509 Gray Street, Suite 113, Tampa, FL 33609 (813)228-2138

West Palm Beach Sub-Office, 4 East Port Road, Room 129, P.O. Box 9846, Riviera Beach, FL 33419 (407)844-1377/4341/4342

New Orleans District Office, Postal Services Building, 701 Loyola Ave., Room T-8005, New Orleans, LA 70113 (504)589-6529

Louisville Sub-Office, Room 601, U.S. Courthouse, West 6th & Broadway, Louisville, KY 40202 (502)582-6380

Oakland Sub-Office, P.O. Box 960, Oakland, LA 71463

Memphis Sub-Office, 814 Federal Building, 167 North Main Street, Memphis, TN 38103 (901)521-3301 - Ans. Ser.

San Antonio District Office, U.S. Federal Building, 727 East Durango, Suite A301, San Antonio, TX 78206 (512)229-5130

Corpus Christi Sub-Office, 600 Leopard Street, Rm. 1224, P.O. Box 746, Corpus Christi, TX 78403 (512)888-3326

Austin Sub-Office, 3708 South Second Street, P.O. Box 6496, Austin, TX 78704 (512)482-5980

Northern Region - Regional Office

Twin Cities Regional Office, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, Fort Snelling, Twin Cities, MN 55111 (612)725-3834

Northern Region - District Offices, Anchorage District Office, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 222 West 7th Avenue, #16, Room 233, Anchorage, AK 99513-7851 (907)271-5029

Alamosa District Office, P.O. Box 1032, Alamosa, CO 81101 (303)589-9736

Chicago District Office, Dirksen Federal Building, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60604 (312)353-7302

Cleveland District Office, Anthony J. Calebreeze Federal Building, 1240 E. 9th Street, Room 1917, Cleveland, OH 44199 (216)522-4766

Denver District Office, 1787 Federal Building, 1961 Stout Street, Denver, CO 80202 (303)844-3526

Detroit District Office, Federal Building, 333 Mt. Elliott Street, Detroit, MI 48207 (313)226-3250

Helena District Office, Federal Building, Room 512, 301 South Park, Drawer 10036, Helena, MT 59626 (406)449-5220

Kansas City District Office, 9747 North Conant Ave., Kansas City, MO 64153 (816)891-9314

Omaha District Office, Federal Building, Room 1008, 106 South 15th Street, Omaha, NE 68102 (402)221-4651

Portland District Office, Federal Office Building, 511 N.W. Broadway, Portland, OR 97209 (503)221-2155

Pubelo Sub-Office, P.O. Box 1879 (Mail), Pubelo, CO 81002, 421 N. Main, Rm. 130, Pubelo, CO 81003 (719)544-9369

Salt Lake City Sub-Office, 230 West 400 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Seattle District Office, 815 Airport Way, South, Seattle, WA 98134 (206)442-5950

St. Paul District Office, 927 Main Post Office Building, 180 E. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul MN 55101 (612)290-3793

Western Region

Western Regional Office, 24000 Avila Road, P.O. Box 30080, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 (714)643-4236

Western Region - District Offices

Honolulu District Office, 595 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96813 (808)541-1388/89

Los Angeles District Office, 300 North Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (213)894-2780

Phoenix District Office, 230 N. First Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85025 (602)261-3114

San Diego District Office, 880 Front Street, San Diego, CA 92188 (619)557-5645

San Francisco District Office, Appraisers Building, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94111 (415)556-5711

Western Region - Sub-Offices

Agana Sub-Office, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, 801 Pacific News Bldg., 238 O'Hara St., Agana, GU
96910 (671)472-7400

Fresno Sub-Office, U.S. Courthouse, Federal Building, Rm. 1308, 1130 "O" Street, Fresno, CA 93721 (209)487-5091

Las Vegas Sub-Office, 300 S. Las Vegas Blvd., Rm. 104, Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702)388-6640

Reno Sub-Office, 712 Mill Street, Reno, NV 89502 (702)784-5428

Sacramento Sub-Office, 650 Capital Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916)551-3116

San Jose Sub-Office, 280 S. First Street, Rm. 1150, San Jose, CA 95113 (408)291-7027

Tucson Sub-Office, 300 West Congress, FB-37, Tucson, AZ 85701-6229 (602)629-6229

Overseas Mailing Addresses

Aruba, Senior Immigration Inspector, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Queen Beatrix Airport, Oranjestad,
Aruba, Phone: 011-297-831-316

Austria, Officer In Charge, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Consulate General,
Vienna, Austria, APO New York, NY 09108, Phone: 011-043-222-51-45-1/20

England, Immigration Officer, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Embassy, London
Box 6, FPO New York, NY 09509, Phone: 011-41-1-499-9000, Ext. 2547

Germany, Officer In Charge, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Consulate General
Frankfurt, Germany, Box 12, APO New York, NY 09213, Phone: 011-49-69-75304-233/234

Greece, Officer In Charge, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Embassy, Athens, Greece
APO New York, NY 09253, Phone: 011-301-646-9326

Hong Kong, Officer In Charge, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Consulate General,
Hong Kong, Box 30, FPO San Francisco, CA 96659-0002, Phone: 011-852-523-0351/ 522-1359

India, Officer In Charge, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Embassy, New Delhi, India
U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-9000, ZIP Code for packages: 20521-9000, Phone: 011-91-11-673-707

Ireland, Senior Immigration Inspector, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o Aer-Rianta, Shannon
International Airport, Attn: Port Director, Shannon, Ireland

Italy, INS Special Representative, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Embassy, Rome,
Italy, APO New York, NY 09794-0007, Phone: 011-396-4674, Ext. 2239/2498

Kenya (Africa), Officer In Charge, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Embassy, Nairobi,
Kenya, Box 12, APO New York, NY 09675, Phone: 011-254-2-334141. Ext. 380

Korea, Officer In Charge, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Embassy, Seoul, Korea,
APO San Francisco, CA 96301, Phone: 011-822-732-2601, Ext. 4464

Mexico, Officer In Charge (CJS), U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Box 3088, Guadalajara, Laredo, TX 78044, Phone: 011-523-625-2700, Ext. 366

Immigration Officer, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Consulate General, Ciudad, Juarez, P.O. Box 9896, El Paso, TX 79989-9896, Phone: 011-52-161-1340-48, Ext. 212.

District Director, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Embassy, Mexico City, Room 118, P.O. Box 3087, Laredo, TX 78044, Phone: 011-525-211-0042, Ext. 3514

Officer In Charge, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Consulate General, Monterrey, P.O. Box 3098, Laredo, TX 78041, Phone: 011-52-83-43-72-63

Immigration Officer, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Consulate General, Tijuana, P.O. Box 1358, San Ysidro, CA 92073-1358, Phone: 011-52-66-817-400

Panama, Officer In Charge, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Embassy, Panama, APO Miami, FL 34002, Phone: 011-507-27-0584, 011-507-27-1777, Ext. 373/375

Phillipines, Officer In Charge, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Embassy, Manila, APO San Francisco, CA 96528, Phone: 011-632-521-7116, Ext. 2224

Singapore, Officer In Charge, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Embassy, Singapore, FPO San Francisco, CA 96699-0001, Phone: 011-65-220-2912

Thailand, District Director, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, c/o American Embassy, Bangkok, Thailand, Box 12, APO San Francisco, CA 96346-0001, Phone: 011-662-252-5040, Ext. 2471/2474

9. Model Law on Adoption Registries

In 1982 NCFA published model state legislation which states could use to establish a mutual consent adoption registry. The full title is "An Act to Establish a Mutual Consent Voluntary Adoption Registry and to Provide for the Transmission of Nonidentifying Information on the Health History and the Genetic and Social History of Adoptees". The development of this model act involved "town meetings" of professionals and members of the adoption circle held across the country over a two-year period. The 15-page document is available from NCFA for $2.00 plus appropriate postage. The proposed adoption registry is a viable alternative to open records, and the registry is professionally sound, humane, sensitive, and practical. NCFA has also designed model nonidentifying background information forms for birth mother and her siblings, for birth father and his siblings, for adoptive parents, medical background on the birth mother, medical background on the birth father, and birth and medical history of the baby to be completed by the physician. None of these forms contain names or addresses--but all contain the essential background characteristics to preserve family medical and cultural history. These forms are automatically sent to those ordering NCFA's model registry act.

There has been much discussion regarding the appropriateness of confidential records. Some argue that confidential records hinder the efforts of the "searcher". Proponents of confidential records assert several reasons for maintaining the confidentiality of records, however. These include the need of the family and child for an opportunity to bond without interruption, enhancing the adoptive family's stability, allowing the birthparent to complete the grieving and separation process, and protecting the privacy of the birthparents and their families.

Open records refers to "unsealing" the adoption records to all parties when the adoptee reaches the age of majority. Proponents of open records argue that adoptees have a right to learn the identity of the birthparent(s), that birthparents have a right to learn the identity of their birthson/daughter, that adoptees may be at risk of future medical problems without access to the records, and that adoptees who are planning to have children are unsure of their genetic backgrounds.

The method by which more than 20 states have addressed the open versus closed record debate is by establishing The Voluntary Mutual Consent Adoption Registry. The Registry is operated by the state or by appropriate licensed, private adoption agencies. The concept is quite simple. An adult adoptee may register her or his desire to learn the identity of the birthparent(s). Birthparents may also register. If a match is made between the birthparent(s) that had consented to the adoption and the adoptee, then a meeting may be facilitated or identifying information may be released (Rosenberg, 1986).

In some states, existing legislation with guarantees of privacy and sealed records serves most of those affected by adoption quite well. However, more than 20 states now have mutual consent voluntary adoption registries based on NCFA's model act, and regard it as a practical method to maintain confidentiality while sharing useful information.

The FAMILY
LAW REPORTER®

Monograph No. 3

August 16, 1988 THE BUREAU OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS, INC. Volume 14, No. 40

1988 SURVEY OF STATE LAWS ON ACCESS TO ADOPTION RECORDS

by Jeffrey Rosenberg, MSW

Perhaps few issues in family law have evoked as much emotion and controversy as the question of access to adoption records—whether it is adult adopted persons seeking identifying information regarding their biological parents or biological parents seeking children they had placed for adoption. Television talk shows routinely stoke their fires with debates between proponents of "open records" and defenders of confidentiality. The media regularly presents the stories of adult adopted persons or biological parents who are "searching" or who have met and are enjoying a new found relationship. Less often are the stories told of searches that had a long-term traumatic outcome or of adoptive families that are damaged by overzealous intruders. Practically every state legislature in the country has been forced to examine this issue as have many courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court.

Emergence of "Search Movement"

There was no law governing adoption in the United States until 1851, when Massachusetts enacted the first statute. It was not until 1917 that Minnesota passed the first law providing for the protection of the adoption process, including protection of the privacy rights of those involved. The history of adoption laws and practices in the United States has been reflected in corresponding changes within the laws of the various states. From 1917 until the mid-1940s, the major effort was one of codifying adoptions laws. Later years saw discussions of issues such as race and religion in the state legislatures. During the last 1½ decades, almost all of the discussion about adoption in the state legislatures have focused on two issues: (1) improving policies and practices so that more "special needs" children could be placed in permanent homes and (2) the question of access to adoption records.

Most discussions of the issue of access to adoption records came about as a result of two forces, both of which came to the attention of the public and policy makers in the mid-1970s. The more obvious of these forces was the emergence of the "search movement," characterized by a small number of highly visible individuals, often people who had written first-person accounts of their experiences with adoption, Florence Fisher's *In Search of Anna Fisher* being a notable example. These leaders of the search movement and the organizations they formed to provide support for others interested in searching for and having meetings with biological parents, children who had been placed for adoption, or biological siblings—Florence Fisher, for example, founded the Adoptees Liberty Movement Association (ALMA)—also became politically active.

ALMA sought to achieve its goals in the courts by challenging the constitutionality of confidential adoption records. The other groups, most notably Concerned United Birthparents (CUB), sought action in the state legislatures. By 1980, an umbrella group, the American Adoption Congress, had been formed to coordinate the efforts of most of those interested in search and in legislative changes which would provide access to identifying information that would lead to meetings with biological relatives.

Less obvious, but no less influential, was a movement within the field of social work itself aimed at providing non-identifying information about the health and other background of biological parents to all adopted adults and to arrange, usually through the agency that had been involved with the adoption, meetings between persons who had indicated a mutual desire to get together. Out of this movement came some social workers who believe that denying adult adoptees access to adoption records causes many, if not all, adoptees to suffer emotionally. The most notable of these is Reuben Pannor, retired director of adoptions for Vista Del Mar, a California agency. (See Pannor, Sorosky, & Baran, *The Adoption Triangle*; and Pannor & Baran, "Open Adoption as Standard Practice," *Child Welfare*, Vol. LXIII, No. 3 (May-June 1984).)

Importance of Confidentiality

At the same time that these two movements have been affecting public policy and adoption practice, the major standard-setting body for adoption practice reaffirmed the need to honor the privacy wishes of the parties involved in adoptions. In 1987, a new edition of *Provisions for Accreditation* was published by the Council of Accreditation of Services for Families & Children Inc., an organization comprised of seven national organizations concerned with adoptions, including the Child Welfare League of America and the National Committee For Adoption. The *Provisions* state that "the agency . . . [must] obtain prior, written, informed consent in the form of a notarized affidavit waiving the right to confidentiality before any contact or exchange of information

Copyright © 1988 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

0148-7922/88/$00.50

occurs." The National Committee For Adoption, in its *Principles of Practice*, also cites the importance of confidentiality and privacy in adoption services. The Child Welfare League, on the other hand, recently published the *Report of the Child Welfare League of America National Adoption Task Force*, which says that "starting with children adopted in 1986, confidentiality shall no longer be in effect once the adopted child reaches 18 or the age of majority" (p. 9).

The efforts of the adoption "reform" groups in the courts have met with little success. In *ALMA Society v. Mellon*, 601 F2d 1225, 5 FLR 2723; cert. denied 444 U.S. 995, 6 FLR 2103 (1979), the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit denied an adult adoptee's request, on constitutional grounds, to open adoption records. The Rhode Island Supreme Court recently issued a similar ruling. See *In re Assalone*, 512 A2d 1383, 12 FLR 1529 (1986). Stymied in the courts, the adoption "reform" groups have intensified the efforts in the state legislatures. This has been joined by a more sophisticated and more concerted effort to influence public opinion. For example, in an "op-ed" article which appeared in the *New York Times* ("How the Adoption System Ignites a Fire," March 1, 1986) author and adoptee Betty Jean Lifton writes "Adoptees also head the list of the most infamous murderers of this century: David Berkowitz ('Son of Sam'), Kenneth Bianci ('the Hillside Strangler'), Joseph Kalinger ('the Philadelphia Shoemaker'), and Gerald Eugene Stano (who killed 32 people in Florida)."

Lifton's thesis that adoption, and particularly confidential adoption, creates pathology in clients is being increasingly dismissed by the field. Her theory that there is an "adopted child syndrome" was not even supported by the majority of the experts fielded at a panel discussion on the topic at the American Adoption Congress National Conference in 1987 ("Experts Debate 'Adopted Child Syndrome' at A.A.C.," *National Adoption Reports*, May-June 1987).

New Strategies

While the legislative efforts of the "reform" groups have intensified, they have also changed. In the early 1980s, the strategy of these search groups was to have the search group itself appointed as an arm of the court. Acting in such a capacity, the search group then acts as the intermediary and contacts the biological parents or the adoptee to determine if consent to release of information will be given. This tactic came to be known as the WARM approach, named for the Washington Adoptees Rights Movement who pioneered it in one county in the state of Washington. The WARM approach is still used in parts of the country, though as a legislative strategy it has waned. The potential for difficulties is evident. In some areas where the WARM approach is used, there have been reports of some search group members, acting as intermediaries, pressuring biological parents to consent to the release of information.

Two new legislative strategies have developed within the search movement to replace the WARM approach. One involves a shifting of the burden from the party seeking to have adoption records opened to the party desiring to maintain rights to confidentiality and privacy. This legislative strategy requires a biological parent to actively assert his or her privacy rights by filing an affidavit expressly denying consent to release of information. A biological parent who has not filed such an affidavit is assumed to have consented to release of information. And a biological parent who does actively request confidentiality may be forced to appear in court to defend his or her privacy rights. This is the approach that has been adopted in Minnesota for adoptions that take place on or after August 1, 1982. Minnesota law states that a biological parent shall "have the opportunity to present evidence to the court that nondisclosure of identifying information is of greater benefit to the genetic parent than disclosure to the adopted person" (MSA § 259.47(3)). Nebraska amended its law this year to require that an adult adoptee be provided his or her original birth certificate if no "non-consent" form is on file. A mayoral commission in the District of Columbia recommended the Minnesota approach to the District Council in 1985, though no action has been taken by the Council.

There are clearly great advantages to the search movement in this new approach. Search organizations and adoptees wishing to open adoption records will no longer be hindered by the fact that a biological parent has not consented to the release of information. The fact that a biological parent has not actively stepped forward, the reason being irrelevant, is sufficient to merit ending the privacy of the biological parent.

The second legislative approach being taken by the search groups involves redefining non-identifying information, which in many states must be provided by law to adult adoptees, to include information that would tend to identify or at least greatly help to identify biological parents. For example, a current proposal in Michigan, HB 5604, would redefine identifying information to include the hospital where the adoptee was born and the time of birth. The House Republican Bill Analysis states that this is to meet astrological needs of adult adoptees. "Time is important for those who have an interest in astrology," the document reads. However, the House Legislative Analysis Section is much more to the point. Its analysis reads that "adoptees' searches for identity also would be aided by being provided with the names of the hospital where born." Hospital and time of birth can be invaluable pieces of information when searching for biological parents.

These new strategies appear to be appropriate, at least from the perspective of the search movement, which has not been successful in lobbying state legislatures to open adoption records. While many state legislatures have acted in this area, nearly all have required mutual consent of the parties before allowing for the release of identifying information. For those advocating unqualified access to adoption records, the history of legislative change in this area is not even considered a "half-a-loaf."

Through the 1970s and 1980s only one state, Alaska, moved to open adoption records, and another state, Pennsylvania, closed a loophole in its law that had allowed access to adoption records. A number of other states have enacted laws that provide for a search for the

Copyright © 1988 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.
0148-7922/88/$00.50

biological parent or parents in order to try to obtain consent for a meeting. Nine states currently have such laws: Connecticut, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

Legislative Trends

The majority of state legislatures that have acted on this issue during the 1980s has not gone the route of opening records or of "search and consent." Most states that have changed their laws have enacted mutual consent voluntary adoption registries—systems whereby persons directly involved in adoptions can register their willingness to meet. Enactments of such state registries is one of the major goals of the National Committee For Adoption. The Committee has published *A Model Act to Establish a Mutual Consent Registry* and a model form for compiling non-identifying information: *The Model Background Information Form*. Today, 21 states (representing more than half of the population of the nation) have enacted some form of the mutual consent voluntary registry. This compares with 10 in 1980. The states that curently have registries are Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah. Legislative activity since 1987 includes amendments to the Arkansas registry law, designed to facilitate contact between biological relatives of adoptees; amendments to Connecticut law to allow the release of original birth certificates to "adult adoptable persons" (defined as persons who were never adopted but for whom parental rights were terminated); the creation of Utah's mutual consent registry; and (as noted above) amendments to the Nebraska search and consent law to require a biological parent to file a "non-consent" to release of information.

The number of states enacting mutual consent voluntary registries would suggest a national trend toward the registry solution and, indeed, more and more state legislators seem to be convinced that the registry is the soundest approach. However, political realities may keep many state legislatures bogged down in inaction on this issue. In Iowa, for example, where CUB is now headquartered, the controversy has reached such a heated stage that it is doubtful that any changes will be made by the state legislature in the near future.

Congressional Activity

At the same time that action and debate is occurring in state legislatures around the country, this issue has been knocking around the U.S. Congress for nearly a decade. Senator Carl Levin (D-Mich) introduced the latest version of his plan to create a "National Voluntary Reunion Registry" (S 2010) in January 1988. His latest proposal has been met by much debate, not over the concept of a national registry so much as the workings of S 2010. While many of the same search groups that have generally opposed mutual consent registries in the states have supported Senator Levin's proposal, other organizations have criticized the legislation as ineffectual and not going far enough in facilitating contact between adoptees and biological parents. Some organizations, including the National Committee For Adoption and President Reagan's Interagency Task Force on Adoption, have opposed S 2010 because of what they see as a vagueness about how the national registry would operate and a lack of assurances that confidentiality will not be inadvertently breached in an attempt to make it more "active." On the other hand, the Child Welfare League of America, a broad child welfare organization that is influential in adoption policy, does not endorse the bill because it is too passive. In a public memo, a lobbyist for the League stated that the League's National Adoption Task Force said S 2010 would set up "a passive system which is likely to be ineffective."

Clearly, whatever approaches are considered by state legislatures, or possibly by Congress, adoption will continue to be a subject that attracts the attention of the media and all others concerned about adoption and related issues in the field of family law.

Copyright © 1988 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.
0148-7922/88/$00.50

Description of State Laws Affecting Access to Adoption Records or Information

The following is a state-by-state summary of state laws on access to adoption records, as of July 1988:

Alabama

Original birth certificate is available on demand of adult adopted persons. (It is interesting to note that the Alabama Bureau of Vital Statistics reports that approximately 50 or less adult adoptees per year make such a request.)

Alaska

Original birth certificate is available on demand of adult adopted persons. Until 1986, the original birth certificate was available only with court order. However, in 1986, the Alaska legislature passed SB 187, which read, in part, that "after receiving a request by an adopted person 18 years of age or older for the identity of a biological person, the state registrar shall provide the person with an uncertified copy of the person's original birth certificate and any change in the biological parent's name or address attached to the certificate." This provision of SB 187 passed with little fanfare and little scrutiny from many of the adoption agencies in Alaska. To some adoption agency administrators, the passage of this provision came as a complete surprise. SB 187 was a much larger bill dealing with adoption matters. This specific provision did not draw notice of proponents of confidentiality and it was not publicized by many of the search groups until after its passage.

Arizona

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

Arkansas

In 1985, Arkansas (Ark. Stat. Ann. §§ 9-9-501-508) created a Mutual Consent Voluntary Adoption Registry. The law states that "A mutual consent voluntary adoption registry may be established and maintained by any licensed voluntary agency involved in an adoption" (§ 9-9-503(a)(1)); and that "[t]he Department of Human Services shall establish and maintain a mutual consent voluntary adoption registry for all adoptions arranged by the department or may contract out the function of establishing . . . the registry." (§ 9-9-503(b)). Until 1987, the registry required the consent of adoptive parents in addition to adopted adults (defined as 21 or older) and biological parents. In 1987, the registry law was amended to facilitate contact between an adopted adult, biological parents, and "each individual related within the second degree (defined as biological siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents of the adoptee). (The inclusion of relatives within the second degree has come under criticism from at least one adoption agency administrator in Arkansas for creating confusion and potentially weakening confidentiality protections for biological parents and adoptees.) The requirement that adoptive parents register was dropped by the 1987 amendments. The law requires that, upon registering, the registrant must participate in at least one hour of counseling with a professional social worker. The law also requires the placing agency to compile non-identifying genetic, health, and social history of the child and to make this information, plus any non-identifying information added to the record over time, available to the adoptive parents and the adoptee upon reaching the age of 18.

California

A 1983 California law provides that a biological parent may receive, at any time after the adoption, information regarding the status of the child placed for adoption, except for identifying information regarding the adoptive family (Cal. Civ. Code § 224o). Civil Code § 227b provides that identifying information about biological parents, including the most current known address, shall be disclosed to an adoptee who has reached the age of 21 if the Department of Social Services or a licensed adoption agency has received an affidavit from the biological parent authorizing such disclosure. Identifying information regarding the adoptee may be disclosed to a biological parent if the adoptee is 21 or over and has filed a consent to such disclosure. Adoptive parents of an adopted child younger than 21 may receive identifying information about biological parents if the department or agency determines that "medical necessity or other extraordinary circumstances justify the disclosure."

California law also requires that biological parents, at the time of consent to adoption or relinquishment of parental rights, be provided a statement declaring that Section 227 authorizes the disclosure of identifying information with consent, that it is important for biological parents to indicate whether they would consent to such disclosure, that it is important for biological parents to keep the agency apprised of their current address and of any medical conditions that may develop that may effect the child, etc. (Civ. Code § 224v). These code sections apply only to adoptions where the biological parents have signed consents or relinquishments on or after January 1, 1984. For adoptions occurring prior to January 1, 1984, contact between an adoptee and biological parent may be arranged if the adoptee, biological parents, and adoptive parents have filed a waiver of confidentiality with the department or agency. The department or agency is prohibited from soliciting, in any way, a waiver of

Copyright © 1988 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.
0148-7922/88/$00.50

confidentiality from any of the parties (Civ. Code § 230.6).

In 1984 the law was amended to allow letters, photographs, or other items of personal property that are in the possession of an adoption agency to be released to biological parents, adoptees who are 18 or older, or adoptive parents of adoptees younger than 18. An agency is not authorized to release such materials unless the party who deposited the materials has provided a written consent to the release (Civ. Code § 230.7). The 1984 amendments also provide that an adoptee who is 21 or over and a biological sibling of the adoptee may file a waiver of confidentiality, and identifying information may be released if a match is made. The biological parent(s) must consent to the release of information if the sibling lived with the biological parent(s) until he or she reached the age of 18 (Civ. Code § 230.8).

(For a discussion of the legislative history of California law in this area see Pierce, "Survey of State Laws and Legislation on Access to Adoption Records—1983," 10 FLR 3035.)

Colorado

Identifying information will be shared if the biological parents and the adult adoptee (age 21 or over) have filed consents. Relatives of deceased biological parents and relatives of deceased adoptees may also register. Information will only be released if both biological parents register unless only one biological parent is listed on the original birth certificate, one biological parent is deceased, or the non-consenting biological parent is unable to be located after a diligent search (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 25-2113.5).

Connecticut

Public Act 87-555 (1987) amended Connecticut's "search and consent" law. "Adult adoptable person," defined as a person (18 or over) who was not adopted but for whom parental rights were terminated, was added as a separate category bestowing additional rights. Both an adult adoptee (18 or over) and an adult adoptable person may request that an adoption agency or the Department of Children and Youth Services conduct a search for biological parents to obtain a consent to release of identifying information. Identifying information "shall not be disclosed unless written consent is obtained from each genetic parent who was party to the legal proceedings in the termination of parental rights" (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 45-68j). If the the agency or department cannot locate the person being sought, then the adult adoptee or adult adoptable person may petition the court for release of identifying information. In addition, an adult adoptable person, but not an adult adoptee, may receive a copy of his or her original birth certificate from the Department of Health Services. Non-identifying genetic, social, and health history concerning biological parents is also available to adult adoptees, adult adoptable persons, and adoptive parents.

Delaware

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

District of Columbia

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order. In 1985, the D.C. Committee on Regulations for the Placement of Children in Family Homes proposed a controversial change in District law. The committee called for a "search and consent" procedure where a biological parent who did not wish to have identifying information released would have to appear in court to actively defend his or her privacy rights. This provision would have applied to adoptions occurring on or after July 1, 1986. Past adoptions would have been covered by a procedure similar to the Connecticut law. Due to the controversy that this proposal evoked, no action on the committee's recommendations have ever been taken.

Florida

Chapter 82-166 (1983) created a mutual consent voluntary adoption registry. The Florida Office of Vital Statistics allows adult adopted persons, biological parents, adoptive parents, biological siblings, and biological grandparents to register identifying information as well as to whom information can be shared. Counseling on a fee for service basis is available to any registrant.

Georgia

Confidential adoption records. Access only by court order.

Hawaii

Confidential adoption records. Non-identifying information available to adoptee at age 18. Identifying information available only with court order or if consent of biological parent(s) is on file.

Idaho

Idaho Code § 39-259A (1985) establishes the Voluntary Adoption Registry. This mutual consent registry is operated by the State Registrar of Vital Statistics. Adult adoptees, biological parents, biological siblings of adult adoptees, and biological relatives of deceased adoptees and deceased biological parents may register. Identifying information regarding a biological parent will not be released to an adult adoptee without the consent of the other biological parent unless there is only one biological parent listed on the original birth certificate, the other biological parent is deceased, or the other biological parent cannot be located. No governmental employee may solicit a consent for release of information or a registration with the Voluntary Adoption Registry.

Copyright © 1988 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

0148-7922/88/$00.50

Illinois

At the time of adoption, a statement is to be obtained from biological parents that they either wish to have identifying information shared with the adopted child when he or she becomes an adult, do not wish to have information shared, or have made no decision as of yet. This decision may be changed at a future time. If consent is given, identifying information may be provided to the adoptee if he or she is 21. Identifying information may be provided to an adoptee younger than 21 only with written permission of the adoptive parents (PA 83-1408, effective 1/1/85). An adoptee who is 21 may register with the agency a desire not to have identifying information shared with the biological parent(s) if such a request is made. Adoptive parents may register a similar non-consent on behalf of an adoptee who is younger than 21 (PA 83-1408). The Department of Public Health operates a mutual consent registry for matching biological parents and adult adoptees. Adoptees may register at the age of 21 or, if they are younger than 21 but older than 18, with the written permission of the adoptive parents. Identifying information may only be provided to biological parents and adoptees if consents from both parties are on file with the registry, or with a court order (PA 83-1408). Non-identifying information will be provided to an adoptee 18 years of age or older upon request.

Indiana

On July 1, 1988, HB 1017 became law and went into effect, creating a mutual consent adoption registry. The registry is designed to facilitate contact between adult adoptees (21 or over), biological parents, adoptive parents, relatives of deceased adoptees, and relatives of deceased biological parents. Registrants may consent to the release of identifying information, non-identifying information concerning an adoption that was finalized before July 1, 1988, or both. Registrants must specify to whom information may be released. Identifying information will not be released unless the adoptee, a biological parent, and the adoptive parents have registered. For adoptions that occurred after July 1, 1988, HB 1017 provides that non-identifying information may be released upon request, without consent of a biological parent. (Ind. Code § 31-3-4-26 to 31-3-4-29)

Iowa

Confidential adoption records. Access to identifying information only by court order. In 1985, HF 547 was introduced. This bill would have established a "search and consent" procedure whereby a biological parent or adult adoptee who did not wish identifying information released would be required to defend his or her right to privacy in court. HF 547 would have also created an "adoption contact registry" designed to allow adult adoptees, biological parents, biological siblings of adult adoptees, adoptive parents of minor adoptees, minor adoptees with parental consent, and lineal ascendants or descendants of any of these persons to register in order to facilitate a meeting. HF 547 was passed by the state House of Representatives but was defeated in the Senate. The controversy that HF 547 created has kept the state legislature from considering this issue since 1985.

Kansas

Original birth certificate available upon demand to adoptee aged 18 or over.

Kentucky

In 1986 Kentucky law was amended to require that the Cabinet for Human Resources ask biological parents whether they consent to "the inspection of the adoption records, to personal contact by the child, or to both when he becomes an adult" (Ky. Rev. Stat. § 199.572). Identifying information may not be released to an adult adoptee, defined as age 21 or over, without such written consent (§ 199.570). Consent may be given or revoked at any time by the biological parents. If such consent is not on file, an adult adoptee may request, and the court shall so order, a search for any and all biological parents listed on the adopted person's original birth certificate. The adult adoptee will not be authorized to inspect the adoption records "unless those biological parents identified on the original birth certificate agree in writing to such inspection" (§ 199.572). Without such consent, adoption records may only be opened upon order of the court. A 1982 law permits adopted persons 18 years of age or older to register with the Cabinet in order to have contact with "pre-adoptive siblings," who must also register and be 18 or older for contact to be arranged (§ 199.575).

Louisiana

Created in 1982, a mutual consent voluntary registry is available within the Department of Health and Human Resources to facilitate contact between adopted persons, 25 years or older, biological mothers, and biological fathers, if the father "has legitimated or formally acknowledged the child as provided by law or has signed a voluntary abandonment and release for the child's adoption." At least one hour of counseling is required upon registration (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 9:40.91).

Maine

A mutual consent voluntary registry was created in 1979 to facilitate contact between adoptive persons 18 years of age or older or adoptive parents of a child less than 18 years old, and biological parents (Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 22, § 2706-A). The Maine Adoption Reunion Registry is maintained by the State Registrar of Vital Statistics.

Copyright © 1988 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.
0148-7922/88/$00.50

Maryland

HB 116 was enacted in 1986 creating the Mutual Consent Adoption Registry designed to facilitate contact between adoptees at least 21 years of age, biological mothers, biological fathers, and biological siblings of adoptees (Md. Fam. Law Code Ann., Subtitle 4A).

Massachusetts

In 1985, state law was amended to provide that identifying information may be released to an adoptee and to a biological parent if a placement agency has received written permission from both the adoptee and biological parent. The adoptee must be 21 or older. If the adoptee is younger than 21, the adoptive parents must provide written permission. Non-identifying information concerning medical, ethnic, socio-economic, and educational circumstances are available upon request to adoptees who are 18 or older, to biological parents, and to adoptive parents if the adoptee is younger than 18. The placement agency may also, at its discretion, release non-identifying information concerning the circumstances under which the adoptee was placed for adoption. (Mass. Gen. Laws Ann., ch. 210 § 5D)

Michigan

For adoptions in which biological parents' rights were terminated prior to September 12, 1980, a child placing agency, a court, or the Department of Social Services may release identifying information to an adoptee who is 18 years or older only when (a) both biological parents have filed with the department a consent to release of identifying information; (b) one biological parent has filed a consent and the other biological parent has failed to file a statement denying consent to release of identifying information; (c) one biological parent is deceased, a biological sibling of the adoptee who is also a biological child of the deceased biological parent has filed a consent, and the other biological parent has failed to file a denial of consent; or (d) both biological parents are deceased and their death was the reason for adoption. For adoptions in which biological parents' rights were terminated on or after September 12, 1980, an adoptee who has reached age 18 may receive identifying information concerning biological parents unless either biological parent has filed a written request that the information not be released. (Mich. Comp. Laws § 710.68).

Currently, a proposal is before the Michigan legislature that would weaken confidentiality protections further. HB 5604 would remove the requirement that identifying information not be released if one biological parent has filed a denial of consent to the release. One biological parent could no longer block the release of identifying information. HB 5604 would provide that if one biological parent consents, identifying information about that biological parent be released, regardless of any concerns held by the other biological parent. This bill would also redefine non-identifying information to include the hospital the adoptee was born in and the time of birth.

Minnesota

Adoptees aged 19 years or over, adoptive parents, and biological parents may request an adoption agency to provide current information or to facilitate contact. Agencies "shall contact the other adult persons or the adoptive parents of a minor child in a personal and confidential manner to determine whether there is a desire to receive or share information or to have contact." Contact may be arranged in a similar fashion between adoptees and biological siblings if such contact would not create a violation of the confidentiality of a biological parent (Minn. Stat. Ann. § 259.47(1)). For adoptions taking place on or after August 1, 1982, the agency may release identifying information to an adoptee aged 21 or older unless the biological parent has filed an affidavit objecting to the release of such information. If such an affidavit has been filed the adult adoptee may still petition the court to provide the information. If such a petition is filed, the biological parent "shall then have the opportunity to present evidence to the court that nondisclosure of identifying information is of greater benefit to the genetic parent than disclosure to the adopted person" (§ 259.47(3)). For all other adoptions, an adoptee 21 or older may request that the Department of Health provide identifying information about biological parents. The Department of Human Services must then try to contact each biological parent listed on the original birth certificate. If the biological parent(s) is located, the department shall notify the biological parent(s) of the request for information and of the right of the biological parent(s) to file a consent to the release or a denial of consent. If the department is unable to locate and notify a biological parent listed on the original birth certificate and if neither biological parent has filed a denial of consent, identifying information may be disclosed to persons adopted prior to August 1, 1977 with a court order and to persons adopted on or after August 1, 1977 without a court order. If either biological parent has filed a denial of consent to release of information, information may not be released. If both biological parents are notified, then information cannot be released without a consent from both biological parents being filed (§ 259.49(1)-(4)).

Mississippi

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

Missouri

Adopted persons aged 21 or over may petition the court for identifying information about biological parents. If the adoption was instituted or completed prior to August 13, 1986, the court must order the court

Copyright © 1988 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

0148-7922/88/$00.50

personnel or the child-placing agency to contact the adoptee's adoptive parents, if not deceased or incapacitated. The court personnel or agency may not contact the biological parents without the written permission of the adoptive parents. If the adoptive parents provide such permission, the agency or court personnel must attempt to contact the biological parents. The agency or court personnel have three months to conduct such a search. If a biological parent is contacted, he or she may file a consent to the release of identifying information. If a consent is not filed or the agency or court personnel are unable to notify the biological parent, information may not be released. For adoptions that took place after August 13, 1986, the permission of the adoptive parents is not necessary. Identifying information regarding adult biological siblings of adult adoptees may be released by a court if it is found that such information is necessary for "urgent health related purposes" and if consent is provided by the adult biological sibling (Mo. Rev. Stat. § 453.121).

Montana

Confidential adoption records. Identifying information available only upon order of the court.

Nebraska

Concerning adoptions completed prior to September 1, 1988, an adopted person 25 years or older may request a search to obtain the consent of the biological parents to release identifying information and the Department of Social Services will carry out the search. An adopted person older than 18 but less than 25 may, according to a department representative, request such a search with the written permission of the adoptive parents. On February 8, 1988, the Governor of Nebraska signed LB 372 into law, a bill that revises the procedures concerning adoptions that took place on or after September 1, 1988. LB 372 provides that an adopted person aged 21 years or older may file a request for his or her original birth certificate and the names of biological relatives with the Bureau of Vital Statistics. The bureau must then check the records of the adopted person to determine if a form denying consent to such release from a biological parent is on file. If no such "non-consent" form is on file then the original birth certificate will be provided to the adoptee and the adoptee will be instructed that an adoption agency or the Department of Social Services may assist in finding biological relatives "to determine such relative's willingness to be contacted by the adopted person." If a "non-consent" form is on file then no information other than non-identifying medical information may be released. Identifying information may not be released unless the biological relative agrees to be contacted by the adoptee (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-119).

Nevada

Mutual consent voluntary registry was enacted in 1979. The state welfare division of the Department of Human Services operates the registry for adopted persons 18 years or older and for biological parents (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 127.007).

New Hampshire

A 1985 law provides that identifying information be shared with adoptees who are 21 or older if the biological parent has signed a release form. Information will not be released unless such a form is on file with the agency and the agency has attempted to contact the biological parent to reaffirm the desire to be contacted. Non-identifying information is available to adult adoptees and to adoptive parents (N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 170-B:19).

New Jersey

Confidential adoption records. Access by court order only. The Department of Youth and Family Services operates a registry for its placements only. New Jersey law regarding the confidentiality of adoption records was challenged in *Backes v. Catholic Family and Community Services*, 509 A2d 283, 12 FLR 1082 (NJ SuperCt 1986). Backes, an adult adoptee, claimed "good cause" to open the adoption records because of his growing curiosity. A physician testified as an expert witness on Backes behalf and asserted that the information would help Backes resolve his anxiety and to further integrate his identity. While Backes' daughter had a heart murmur, Backes testified that the treating doctors did not regard a family history as important for purposes of treating her. While the court did state that a medical need for parental information may constitute "good cause" for making contact with a biological parent, it concluded that Backes had not demonstrated a compelling need for the information. "[While] there is no showing . . . that a complete medical history is available for Backes," the court wrote, "the credible evidence does not establish that any need exists at this time for additional medical or genetic information."

New Mexico

Confidential adoption records. Access by court order only.

New York

A mutual consent voluntary registry is available to adoptees who are 21 or older, adoptive parents, and biological parents. For adoptions occurring prior to January 1, 1984, identifying information will only be released if the adult adoptee, the adoptive parents, and each biological parent who consented to the adoption have registered. The need for consent of the

Copyright © 1988 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.
0148-7922/88/$00.50

adoptive parents is waived if they are deceased. For adoptions occurring on or after January 1, 1984, the consent of the adoptive parents is not necessary. (N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 4138b–d).

North Carolina

Confidential adoption records. Access by court order only.

North Dakota

An adopted person 21 or over may request the Department of Human Services to disclose identifying information concerning the biological parents. The department must notify the child-placing agency maintaining the adoption records and the agency must attempt to locate the biological parents. If the agency is unable to locate the biological parents, information may not be released. If either of the biological parents has filed an affidavit denying consent to release of identifying information, information may not be released. Information may only be released if both biological parents have filed a consent. Adult adopted persons may request from the department identifying information regarding an adult biological sibling. Information will only be released with the written consent of the sibling and of any biological parents of the sibling if he or she knows their identity. (N.D. Cent. Code, Ch. 14-15, § 16).

Ohio

In 1984, Ohio law was amended to provide that biological parents may file an authorization for the release of identifying information with the Department of Health. If such an authorization has been filed, the information will be released to an adoptee who is 21 or older who petitions the probate court (Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3107.41). For adoptions that took place prior to 1964, adult adoptees may have access to adoption records. For adoptions that occurred on or after January 1, 1964, access to adoption records is only available with court order.

Oklahoma

Confidential records. Access by court order only. The Department of Human Resources operates a mutual consent voluntary registry for persons adopted through the public agency only.

Oregon

A mutual consent voluntary registry is available to adult adoptees aged 21 or over, biological parents, biological siblings of an adoptee who are 21 or over, adoptive parents of deceased adoptees, adult siblings of deceased biological parents, and parents of deceased biological parents. The registration is $25. Non-identifying information is available for a fee of $45 to adoptees aged 18 or older, biological parents, adoptive parents, and, in the event of the death of an adoptee, an adoptee's spouse and children if they are 18 or older (Ore. Rev. Stat. § 109.425–.500).

Pennsylvania

An adoptee aged 18 or older or, if the adoptee is younger than 18 his or her adoptive parent or legal guardian, may petition the court for release of identifying information concerning biological parents. The court must appoint either a county agency or a private adoption agency to attempt to locate and contact the biological parents. The court may deny the request to search for the biological parents if it believes there is a "substantial risk that persons other than the natural parents would learn of the adoptee's existence and relationship to the natural parents." An adoptee, or his or her adoptive parent or legal guardian, may also make a direct request to an adoption agency to search for the biological parents. Identifying information concerning both biological parents may only be released if both biological parents consent. If only one biological parent consents to the release of information, then only information about that biological parent may be disclosed. Biological parents may file with the court or the Department of Health a consent form granting permission to disclose to the adoptee the information contained in the adoptee's original birth certificate. Such information may not be released without such a consent and only to an adoptee who is 18 or older or, if the adoptee is younger than 18, to his or her adoptive parent or legal guardian (23 Pa. Cons. Stat. §2905). This law was passed in 1984 as a response to a state attorney general's interpretation that then Pennsylvania law allowed adoptees to receive a copy of their original birth certificate upon demand at age 18.

Rhode Island

Confidential adoption records. Access only through court order.

In *In re Assalone*, 512 A2d 1383, 12 FLR 1529 (1986), the Rhode Island Supreme Court overturned a trial court's order finding "good cause" to release identifying information regarding biological parents to the petitioning adult adoptee. "The State's primary concern," the court wrote, "is to provide an effective adoption procedure. Confidentiality enables the natural parent to place the child for adoption with the assurance of anonymity. The natural parents have a right to privacy, and the expectation of privacy arising from the confidentiality statute is constitutionally protected. Such privacy may not be disturbed unless a compelling need for identifying information is proven; thus the petitioner must establish good cause." The Court ruled that the trial court erred in finding that 'good cause" existed where an adoptee alleged that her longstanding preoccupation with obtaining information about her biological parents had impaired her psychological functioning. A doctor had testified that she was suffering from "genealogical bewilderment." The court found, however, that "the record is devoid

Copyright © 1988 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.
0148-7922/88/$00.50

of any evidence to support the trial justice's conclusion that petitioner had a compelling need for the information she sought.

South Carolina

In 1985 South Carolina enacted the Adoption Reunion Register. Adoptees who are 21 or older, biological parents, and biological siblings of adoptees may register. Counseling must be provided by an adoption agency prior to the release of identifying information. Identifying information will not be released if the adoptive parents object within 30 days of receiving written notification of the adoptee's registration (S.C. Code Ann. § 20-17-1775(E)).

South Dakota

Court may order disclosure of records of adoption proceedings to adoptive parents and adult adopted persons (S.D. Codified Laws Ann. § 25-6-15). The Department of Social Services maintains a voluntary adoption registry for adult adoptees and biological parents (§ 25-6-15.3).

Tennessee

In 1985, Tennessee law was amended to provide that an adoptee, at the age of 25, may request that the Department of Human Services attempt to locate his or her biological parents and seek consent to the release of identifying information. If the biological parents object, the information will not be released. If either of the biological parents consents, the information will be released. If the department is unable to locate the biological parents, then identifying information is still to be released (Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-1-141).

Texas

A mutual consent voluntary registry was enacted in 1983 (Tex. Hum. Res. Code Ann., Tit. 2-D, Ch. 49). Registries are established within the Department of Human Resources and licensed agencies to facilitate contact between adopted persons 21 years of age or older, biological parents, and biological siblings.

Utah

A mutual consent voluntary registry was enacted in 1987. Identifying information will be released when a registration is received by a court or a licensed child-placing agency from an adult adoptee aged 21 or over and a biological parent. Information will not be released, however, if the adult adoptee has a biological sibling who was raised in the same family and who has not yet reached the age of 21. Adult biological siblings of adoptees may also register. If a registration has been received by both the adult adoptee and his or her adult biological sibling, such information may be released (Utah Code Ann. § 78-30-18).

Vermont

Confidential adoption records. Identifying information available only by court order.

Virginia

Confidential adoption records. Identifying information available only by court order.

Washington

Confidential adoption records. Identifying information available only by court order.

West Virginia

Confidential adoption records. Identifying information available only by court order.

Wisconsin

The Department of Health and Social Services maintains a centralized birth record file for the maintenance of genetic and medical information provided by biological parents. Such information may be provided upon request in a non-identifying form to an adoptee aged 18 or older, an adoptive parent of an adopted child, the guardian or legal custodian of a child placed for adoption, the offspring of a child placed for adoption if the offspring are at least 18 years of age, and an agency or social worker providing services to a child placed for adoption. If the desired information is not in the centralized birth record file, the department will conduct a confidential search for the biological parents if the request is accompanied by a physician's certification that the child or adult adoptee's medical condition requires access to this information. Upon contacting the biological parents the department, with the consent of the biological parents, will provide the requesting party with the desired genetic or medical information in a non-identifying fashion. If the biological parents deny consent to the release of this information, the requesting party may petition the court for release (Wis. Children's Code § 48.432).

Identifying information about biological parents will be provided to an adult adoptee 21 or older if both biological parents have filed with the department or adoption agency a consent to the release of such information. Information will be released if only one biological parent has filed such a consent only if the other biological parent was not known at the time of the original adoption. If the department or agency does not have consents on file, the department will upon request attempt to locate the biological parents. If the biological parents are located and consent given, identifying information will be released. If the biological parents are located and consent not given, information will not be released. If one known biological

Copyright © 1988 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.
0148-7922/88/$00.50

parent is not located but the other biological parent consents, information will be released. And if the biological parents are not located, information will not be released (§ 48.473).

Wyoming

Confidential adoption records. Identifying information available only with court order.

Summary of State Laws Concerning Access to Identifying Information

Confidential Records (18)	Registry (21)	Search & Consent Procedures (9)	Open Records (3)
Arizona	Arkansas	Connecticut	Alabama
Delaware	California	Kentucky	Alaska
District of Columbia	Colorado	Minnesota	Kansas
Georgia	Florida	Missouri	
Hawaii	Idaho	Nebraska	
Iowa	Illinois	North Dakota	
Mississippi	Indiana	Pennsylvania	
Montana	Louisiana	Tennessee	
New Jersey[1]	Maine	Wisconsin	
New Mexico	Maryland		
North Carolina	Massachusetts[3]		
Oklahoma[2]	Michigan		
Rhode Island	Nevada		
Vermont	New Hampshire[4]		
Virginia	New York		
Washington	Ohio[5]		
West Virginia	Oregon		
Wyoming	South Carolina		
	South Dakota		
	Texas		
	Utah		

---

[1] The Department of Youth and Family Services operates a registry for its placements only.

[2] The Department of Human Resources operates a registry for its placements only.

[3] Identifying information is released to adult adoptees and biological parents if letter of consent is on file with agency.

[4] Release of information with mutual consent of parties. Court requires agency contact biological parent to confirm consent on file.

[5] Adoption records open to adoptees who were adopted before Jan. 1, 1964.

Copyright © 1988 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

0148-7922/88/$00.50

PART III. ADOPTION STATISTICS

11. History of National Adoption Statistics

Collection of national adoption statistics began in 1951 and ceased in 1975 with the dissolution of National Center for Social Statistics. In 1978 Congress mandated that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) resume adoption data collection, but no action was taken. Two representative surveys of child welfare systems were done, one by Maximus, Inc. (1977) and the other by DHHS' Office of Civil Rights (1980). Both provided national estimates of the substitute care populations and only limited estimates of adoption data. In 1983, the Voluntary Cooperative Information System (VCIS) was instituted, but this only covered public agency adoptions (only about one-third of all unrelated adoptions). In 1984 DHHS established a working group entitled "Adoption Information Improvement Workgroup" which was to recommend methods for collecting adoption statistics. More recently, DHHS' Administration for Children, Youth, and Families gave a grant to the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to design a protocol for the collection of national adoption data. NCSC is still working on a plan to begin collecting National adoption statistics, and this is discussed in greater depth in the last chapter in this part entitled "Better Federal and State Data on Adoption Needed". NCFA President William Pierce is a member of the advisory board for the NCSC project.

In 1986, Congress again mandated, as part of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (COBRA), that DHHS collect foster care and adoption data. In 1987, DHHS formed a national advisory committee to recommend ways to implement this Congressional mandate. NCFA's William Pierce sat on this committee. Even though this committee completed its work in the fall of 1987 and despite the Congressional requirement that DHHS publish final regulations for this system by December 31, 1988, as of this writing no regulations have been published. Both the NCSC effort and the national advisory committee represent laudable efforts on the part of the DHHS. The federal money expended thus far on these projects has totaled approximately $530,000 ($130,000 for the advisory committee and subsequent follow-up; $400,000 for two grants to NCSC, one for a feasibility study and one for an implementation study). But, alas, no actual data has resulted from these expenditures.

Frustrated by lack of national data, in 1983-84 the National Committee For Adoption (NCFA) designed its own national survey on adoption based on 1982 data, and conducted its own survey of States, departments of social services, adoption agencies, and vital statistics offices. NCFA published its 1982 data in 1985 (NCFA, 1985), but no Federal effort has held out the promise of the collection of national adoption statistics in the late 1980's. Therefore, NCFA again conducted a national adoption survey in 1988 using 1986 as the base data year. Appendix A describes NCFA's 1986 National Adoption Survey in detail.

CHRONOLOGY OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DATA COLLECTION EFFORTS

Year(s)	Agency/Organization/ Legislation	Activity
1944-1975	National Center for Social Statistics (NCSS), Department of Health, Education and Welfare	Annual national statistics on adoption including data on adoptive children, adoptive parents, and the way the adoption was arranged from court records in cooperating States. NCSS dissolved; data collection ceased.
1977	Maximus, Inc.	National estimates of substitute care population but only limited adoption data.
1978	Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (DHEW)	The Adoption Reform Act of 1978 required that DHEW create a system for the collection of State and National adoption and foster care data; but no action taken.
1980	DHHS Office of Civil Rights	National estimates of substitute care population but only limited adoption data.
1983 to present	American Public Welfare Association, Voluntary Cooperative Information System	Reports only public agency adoptions from selected cooperating States.
1982	National Committee For Adoption (NCFA is a non-government organization organized in 1980)	National survey on State and Federal data on unrelated and related adoptions; public agency, private agency, and independent adoptions; foster care adoptions; healthy infants; special needs adoptions; and foreign adoptions. Data published in NCFA's 1985 Adoption Factbook.
1985	Department of Health and Human Services "Adoption Information Improvement Workshop"	Examined the strengths and weaknesses of the available statistical information, and Federal, State, and local data requirements; disbanded after making recommendations and completing its mission.

CHRONOLOGY OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DATA COLLECTION EFFORTS--Continued

Year(s)	Agency/Organization/ Legislation	Activity
1986 to present	Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children, Youth, and Families grant to National Center for State Courts to develop data collection protocol	Feasibility study of National and State adoption statistics to be collected from State courts, public welfare agencies, and State vital statistics offices.
1986	National Committee For Adoption	National survey on State and Federal data on unrelated and related adoptions; public agency, private agency, and independent adoptions; healthy infants; special needs adoptions; and foreign adoptions. Data published in NCFA's 1989 Adoption Factbook.
1987	DHHS Advisory Committee on Adoption and Foster Care Information set up per congressional mandate (NCFA was seated on this committee)	Committee recommended collection of national foster care and adoption data to DHHS Secretary in Fall 1987. No action by DHHS to date.

12. Background for the National Committee For Adoption's 1982 and 1986 Surveys

This section of the 1989 Adoption Factbook describes the most recent State and national adoption data available. In 1988, the National Committee For Adoption conducted a national survey, and contacted State health, welfare, and vital statistics offices for 1986 data on the following types of adoptions:

- related domestic adoptions (legal adoptions in which at least one of the adoptive parents or guardians is related to the child by blood or marriage to the child's biological parent)

- unrelated domestic adoptions by public agencies (those child placing agencies that are supported by public funds and administered by public officials and their personnel)

- unrelated domestic adoptions by private agencies (voluntary agencies which are supported by private funds as well as some public funds for certain programs under purchase of services agreements with public agencies)

- unrelated domestic adoptions by private individuals (independent placements made without agency involvement that are sometimes referred to as "private" adoptions)

- unrelated adoptions of infants (infants under two years of age adopted by persons not related to the infant by blood or marriage)

- unrelated domestic adoptions of children with special needs (those children who may be difficult to place due to ethnic background, age, membership in a minority or a sibling group, or the presence of physical, emotional, or mental handicaps)

Data tabulation on unrelated adoptions of children from other countries (adoptions by U.S. citizens of children from other countries, either adopted overseas and brought to the U.S., or brought to the U.S. and then adopted) were designed by NCFA and purchased from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and are included in the data presented.

The questionnaire used in this survey is shown in Appendix A, where the methodology, data sources, and procedures used to adjust the data are also summarized. 1986 was the most recent base year for which it was feasible to collect these data because there are time lags for State data processing. Correspondingly, final U.S. and State natality statistics for 1986 used in tables 4, 9, and 10 did not become available until July 1988.

The National Committee For Adoption conducted its 1986 survey because of a desperate need for more current adoption data by policymakers, adoption agencies, social workers, attorneys, health professionals, researchers, adopted persons biological parents, and potential adoptive parents. This data need had developed because the last Federal effort to collect comprehensive national adoption data ceased with the 1975 data year. NCFA's 1982 and 1986 surveys demonstrate that it is feasible to again collect these data, and we hope that this survey will soon be conducted annually by a major Federal agency with the resources to improve on our efforts. If so, the National Committee For Adoption will be a willing and supportive partner.

13. Overview of Adoptions in 1986

Table 1 indicates that, in 1986, there were 104,088 domestic adoptions. Of these, 52,931 were related domestic adoptions, and 51,157 were unrelated domestic adoptions. The largest number of unrelated domestic adoptions were handled by public agencies (20,064), and the rest were handled by private agencies (15,063) or were independent adoptions handled by private individuals, usually attorneys (16,040). Infants comprised almost half (24,589) of unrelated domestic adoptions, and special needs children (some may have been infants) comprised almost one-fourth (13,568) of unrelated domestic adoptions. Of the remaining unrelated domestic adoptions, most were healthy children over the age of two. In addition to these totals, there were 10,019 foreign adoptions in 1986. The largest number of unrelated domestic adoptions occurred in the big population States--Texas, Illinois, California, Florida, and New York. These five states also reported the largest number of domestic infant adoptions. However, the number of adoptions of foreign infants was largest in New York, Minnesota, California, Michigan, and New Jersey.

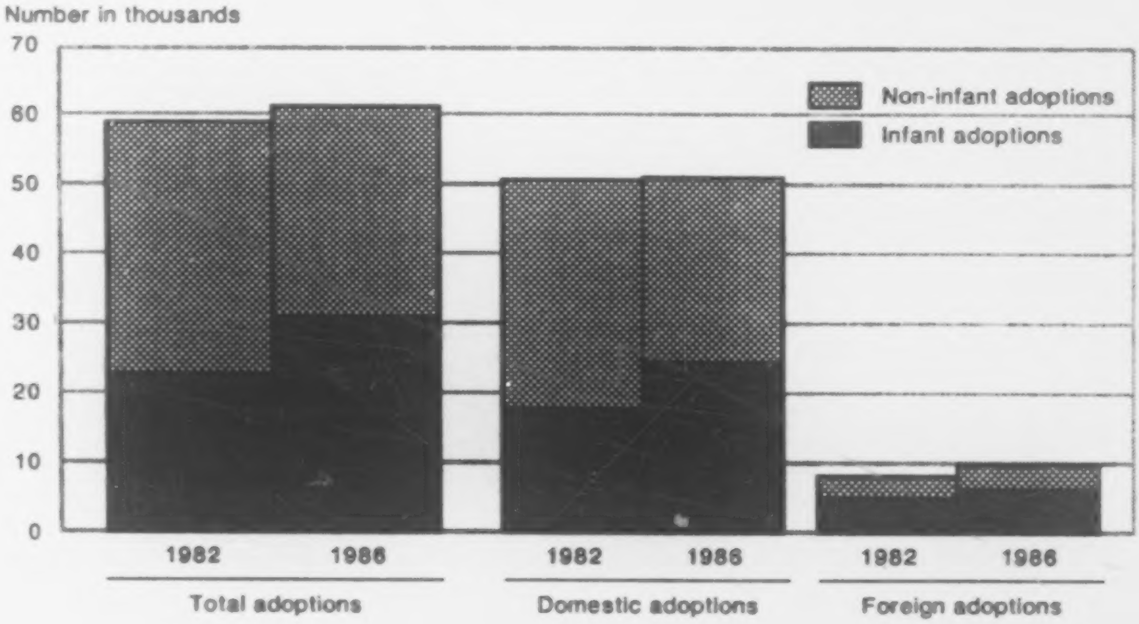


Figure 1. Domestic and foreign unrelated adoptions: 1982 and 1986

SOURCE: National Committee For Adoption

Figure 1 combines data from NCFA's 1985 and 1989 Adoption Factbooks, and shows total unrelated adoptions have increased, primarily due to increases in foreign adoptions and domestic infant adoptions.

14. Percentages of Related and Unrelated Adoptions—1986

Table 2 shows that the majority (50.9 percent) of all domestic adoptions are related domestic adoptions. There is wide state-by-state variation in the percent of adoptions that are related. In seven states (New Jersey, Ohio, Illinois, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, and California), unrelated domestic adoptions comprised less than one-third of total related and unrelated domestic adoptions.

15. Unrelated Adoptions by Public Agencies, Private Agencies, and Private Individuals—1986

Of the 51,157 unrelated domestic adoptions in 1986, 39.2 percent were handled by public agencies, 29.4 percent were handled by private agencies, and 31.4 percent were by private individuals (table 3). Elsewhere in this Factbook, NCFA has identified the risks inherent in independent adoptions. These often risky adoptions comprised over two-fifths of unrelated domestic adoptions in each of seven States (Illinois, West Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Utah, and California), but there were no independent adoptions in five States (Massachusetts, Connecticut, Michigan, North Dakota, Delaware).

16. Unrelated Adoptions of Infants—1986

Table 4 focuses on unrelated domestic adoptions of 24,589 infants in the U.S. in 1986. These infants comprised almost half (48.1 percent) of all unrelated domestic adoptions in that year, but comprised more than three-fourths of unrelated domestic adoptions in four States (Nebraska, South Carolina, Hawaii, Utah), and less than one-fourth of unrelated domestic adoptions in each of five states (Maine, New Jersey, Indiana, Virginia, New Mexico). Domestic adoptions of infants comprised only 0.7 percent of 1986 live births, and 2.8 percent of births to unmarried women. Unmarried women are by far the most likely to consider relinquishing their infants for adoption, and these statistics show that more than 97 percent elect to parent the child. The reasons for this are discussed in Chapter 4 of this Factbook, "Nine Social Trends Affecting The Adoption Option", and Chapter 40, "Birthmothers Who Place Their Children For Adoption".

17. Unrelated Domestic and Foreign Adoptions—1986

When unrelated domestic and foreign adoptions are totalled, it is seen that 61,176 unrelated adoptions occurred in the U.S. in 1986 (table 5). Foreign adoptions therefore comprised one-sixth of unrelated adoptions. However, foreign adoptions comprised over one-fourth of all unrelated adoptions in each of twelve States (Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Delaware, Maryland, Colorado, Washington, and Hawaii).

18. State Trends in Adoption—1982 and 1986

A substantial drop in related domestic adoptions has occurred, down from 91,141 in 1982 to 52,931 in 1986 (table 6). These adoptions may typically occur in remarriage, but remarriage rates have declined steadily in the 1980's (NCHS, 1988). Over one million children are involved in the 1.1 million divorces that occur annually, and these children are eligible to be related domestic adoptions if the parents remarry. However, the more children a divorced woman has, the lower her chances of remarriage (Wilson, 1989). This would also seem to reduce the number of unrelated adoptions, especially when considered in the light of the trend of fewer children per divorce in the later 1980's (NCHS, 1987). Furthermore, unmarried women with children who later marry have children who are eligible to fall into the category of related domestic adoptions. However, changes in State and Federal child support benefits, court awards of child support payments in divorce, and collectability of such payments may have made related domestic adoption less financially feasible in recent years. The growing trend for young divorced women with children to remain single longer, reflected in the rise of female headed households, means that fewer children will fall into the category of domestic unrelated adoptions. In 1988, 19 percent of white children under 18 and 54 percent of black children under 18 lived with only one parent, up from 15 percent and 46 percent, respectively, in 1980 (Census Bureau, 1989).

Table 6 also shows that the number of unrelated domestic adoptions remained about the same in 1986 (51,157) as in 1982 (50,720). However, major fluctuations occurred in many States for several reasons:

1) Some States have only a few hundred unrelated domestic adoptions annually, so a relatively minor change of 100 adoptions plus or minus in the two time periods would substantially affect the percentage change,

2) Some States have become more lax or aggressive in facilitating the "adoption option".

3) Statistical limitations in States' abilities to report precise data, which are limitations in the data discussed in Appendix C.4 of this Factbook.

Caution should be taken in interpreting these changes for individual states unless one has good knowledge of the factors responsible for the observed trends.

19. Special Needs Adoptions—1982 and 1986

Table 7 indicates that special needs adoptions comprised just over one-fourth of all unrelated domestic adoptions both in 1982 (27.6 percent) and in 1986 (26.5 percent). As table 7 indicates, only three states (Maine, Delaware, and New Mexico) had fewer than 10 percent of its adoptions as special needs, and only four states (West Virginia, Kentucky, Louisiana, and California) had more than 40 percent as special needs. As table 1 indicated, there were 13,568 special needs adoptions in 1986 as compared with 14,005 in 1982 (NCFA's Adoption Factbook, 1985). This indicates relatively constant efforts to place these children in the mid-1980's.

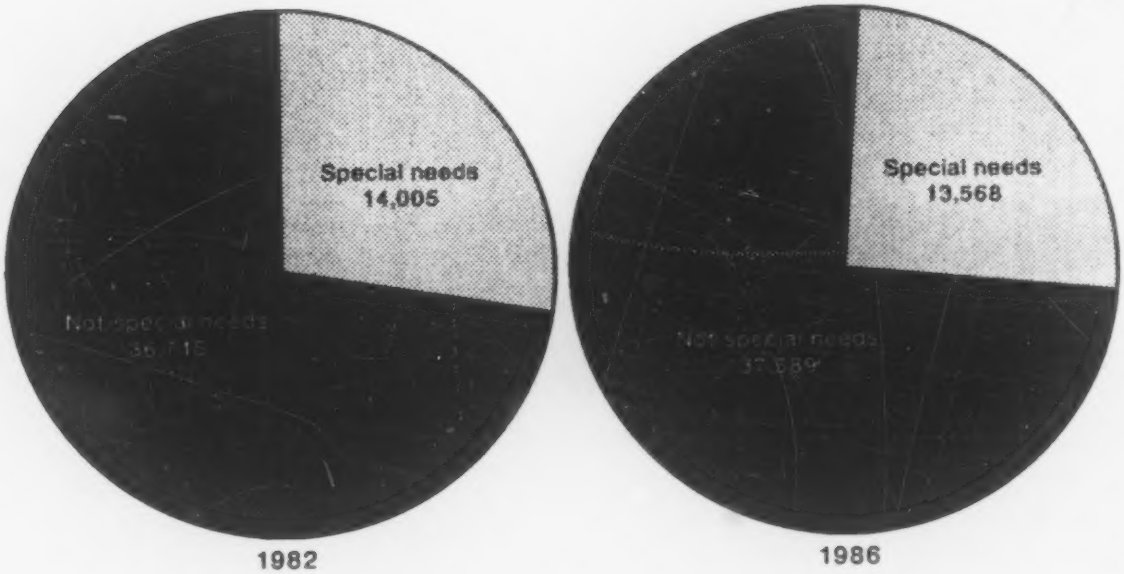


Figure 2. Special needs unrelated domestic adoptions: 1982 and 1986

SOURCE: National Committee For Adoption

Figure 2 depicts special needs adoptions in a pie chart, and shows that these adoptions have represented a constant share of unrelated adoptions in both 1982 and 1986.

20. State Rankings in Numbers of Adoptions—1986

Table 8 ranks the top ten states in terms of those with the largest number of unrelated domestic adoptions, domestic infant adoptions, domestic special needs adoptions, and foreign adoptions. Texas topped the list with 4,499 unrelated domestic adoptions, Illinois topped the list with 2,564 domestic infant adoptions, California topped the list with 1,808 special needs adoptions, and New York topped the list with 1,027 foreign adoptions. The exact numbers for the top ten states (and all others) are found in table 1.

Note that the states with the largest numbers of these types of adoptions are also the states which have the largest populations and the most births. Therefore, it is not surprising to find these states in the top 10 of state rankings.

However, it is possible that smaller states could be shown to be relatively more active in adoption placements, if the number of adoptions were standardized by the potential number of adoptions (particularly, nonmarital live births and abortions). This is discussed in the next section.

21. Ratios of Adoptions, Live Births, Nonmarital Live Births, and Abortions—1986

Ratios are useful devices for standardizing data and indicating the relative sizes of two quantities to be compared. It is helpful to standardize "per 1,000" as in table 9 so that the relative magnitude of adoptions, births, and abortions to each other can be compared. The **ratio of abortions per 1,000 live births**, also called the "abortion ratio" in demographic studies, represents an indication of abortions in relation to the frequency of live births occurring to residents of each state. Therefore, there were 422.9 abortions for every 1,000 live births, or about 42 abortions per 100 live births in the United States in 1986. Abortion ratios are routinely used by the National Center for Health Statistics in presenting its data on induced terminations of pregnancy (Powell-Griner, 1987). The magnitude of the ratios is affected by the distribution of both live births and abortions in relation to such characteristics of the female population as marital status, State policy on public funding of family planning and abortion, availability of services (family planning, maternity homes) for pregnant women, prevalence of certain religious groups from state-to-state, and even proximity to other States with certain services and facilities.

Data on 1985 abortions had to be used because 1986 data were not available at this writing. The number of abortions has been fairly stable at about 1.5-1.6 million from 1979-1985 (Ventura, Taffel, and Mosher, 1988), so the use of 1985 data here is not unreasonable. It has been suggested by some that CDC abortion data are delayed or suppressed due to political sensitivity. This ought not to be the case in our statistically-rich, open society.

In this section, NCFA has devised three new types of ratios based on the standard demographic technique described above. The **ratio of infant adoptions per 1,000 abortions** represents an indication of infant adoptions in relation to the frequency of abortions. Therefore, there were only 15.5 infant adoptions per 1,000 abortions (table 8). NCFA takes no position on abortion, except to suggest that many women would not choose abortion if there were better counseling, better social services, and more maternity homes. If women knew that there are at least 40 couples hoping to adopt for every one adoptable infant, and that adoption is beneficial to most adopted persons and birthmothers who make an adoption plan, there would be more adoptions.

The **ratio of infant adoptions per 1,000 live births** represents an indicator of infant adoptions in relation to the frequency of live birth. Therefore, there were only 6.5 adoptions per 1,000 live births in America. Thus, less than one percent of live births are relinquished for adoption at birth.

The ratio of **infant adoptions per 1,000 nonmarital live births** is a better yardstick because unmarried women are more likely to choose adoption for their babies, and indicates infant adoptions in relation to the frequency of nonmarital live births. There were 28.0 adoptions per 1,000 nonmarital live births in 1986, indicating that only 2.8 percent of unmarried mothers chose adoption for their infants, and over 97 percent parented the baby.

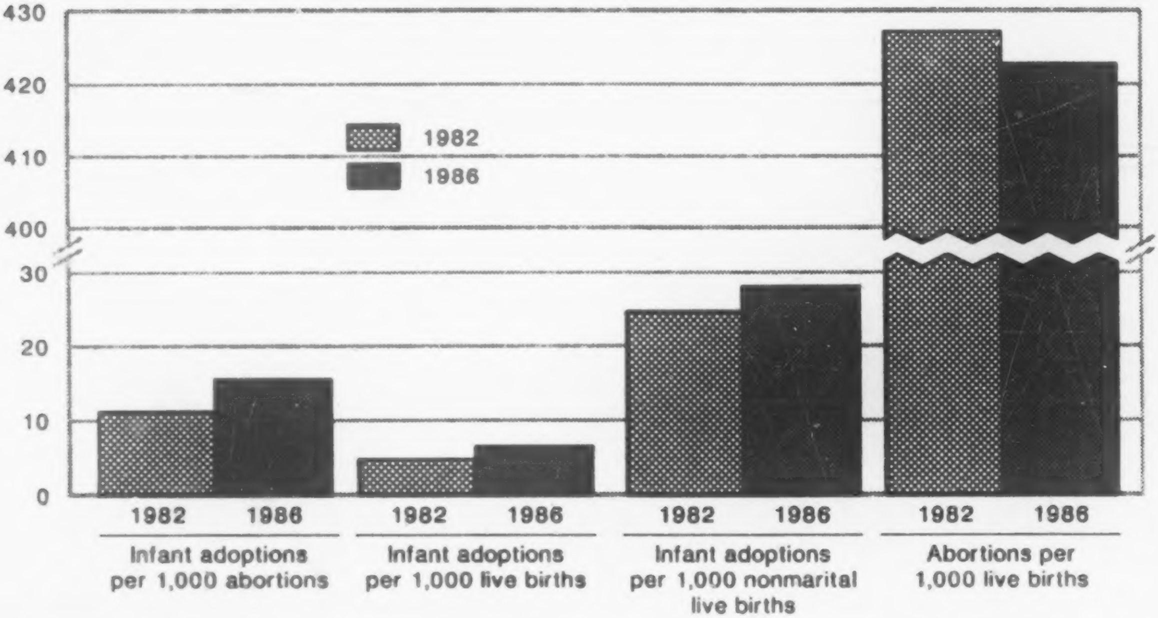


Figure 3. Ratios of infant adoptions, abortions, live births, and nonmarital live births: 1982 and 1986

SOURCE: National Committee For Adoption

Figure 3 graphically depicts these four ratios, and includes the ratios calculated for 1982. There was an increase in the first three ratios from 1982 to 1986, indicating relatively more adoptions (per 1,000 abortions, live births, and nonmarital live births). The fourth set of bars indicates relatively fewer abortions per 1,000 live births in 1986 as compared with 1982.

Note in table 9 the five States with the highest ratios of infant adoptions per 1,000 nonmarital live births (Vermont, Montana, Idaho, Utah, and Oregon). All of these states have ratios ranging from 69.0 to 116.4, or three-to-four times the national average of 28.0. These states, therefore, have three to four times the relative success as the national average in offering the adoption option to unmarried women who would otherwise parent the baby. These same five states also have ratios of infant adoptions per 1,000 abortions which are 28.3 to 93.7, or two-to-six times the national average of 15.5. This means these states have much more relative success in offering the adoption option to women who would otherwise choose abortion.

If the information derived to create these two ratios is combined, a new useful index can be created which indicates the number of infant adoptions per 1,000 nonmarital live births and abortions combined$_{TM}$ This new index, created by NCFA, is called the "Adoption Option Index" ^{TM}.

22. "Adoption Option Index"™ from the National Committee For Adoption

Based on statistical data from NCFA's survey on 1986 domestic infant adoption, counts of births to unmarried women from U.S. vital statistics, and abortion counts reported by the Centers for Disease Control, all shown in table 9, NCFA has constructed a new index which shows the relative frequency of infant adoptions per 1,000 abortions and births to unmarried women (table 10; figure 4).

$$\frac{\text{Domestic Infant Adoptions}}{\text{Abortions + Births to Unmarried Women}} \times 1{,}000 = \text{NCFA's Adoption Option Index}$$

The United States Adoption Option Index is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{24{,}589}{1{,}588{,}550 + 878{,}477} \times 1{,}000 = 10.0$$

This is the first index ever constructed to indicate the relative frequency of infant adoptions to that group of pregnancy outcomes which **could potentially yield adoptions**. The index has both strengths and limitations.

Its strengths are that:

1) it is an objective index based on counts of actual events,

2) it is a ratio, which standardizes events "per 1,000", so large states and small states alike can be compared with regard to adoption activity in relation to the pool of pregnancies which potentially could yield adoptable infants,

3) it allows statistically standardized comparisons of trends for all time periods and locations for which the three data items of infant adoptions, abortions, and births to unmarried women are available, and

4) it is a summary measure which reflects the types of adoption choices made by adoptive couples, unmarried pregnant women who choose to terminate their pregnancies, and unmarried pregnant women who carry their pregnancies to term and deliver. It also reflects the varied levels of adoption facilities, counseling, and regulations in a given geographic area.

Its limitations are:

1) The index will vary with a substantial change in any one of the three data components,

2) social factors, attitudes, and legislation can affect any of the three data components, and

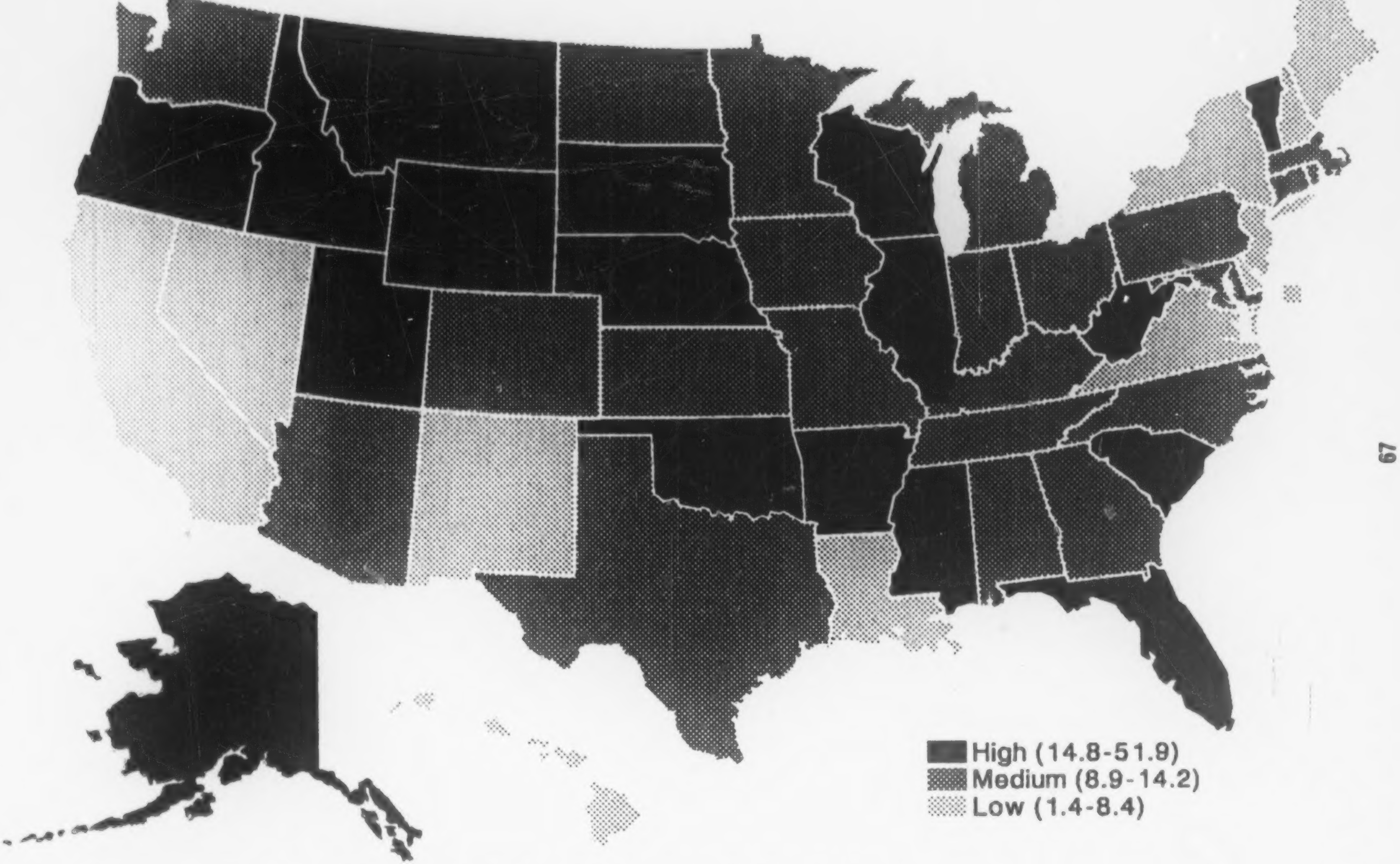

High (14.8-51.9)
Medium (8.9-14.2)
Low (1.4-8.4)

Figure 4. State rankings of NCFA's "Adoption Option Index"

SOURCE: National Committee For Adoption

3) it applies to domestic infant adoptions, and excludes foreign adoptions.

Table 10 and Figure 4 rank all States with respect to the adoption option index. The index is 10.0 for the U.S. as a whole, and indicates that there were ten domestic infant adoptions for every 1,000 abortions and births to unmarried women in 1986. If converted to a base of 100, it means that there is only one adoption for every 100 abortions and births to unmarried women. Given that there are 40 infertile couples alone wanting children for every one adoptable infant, NCFA believes that the index could rise very substantially, and that these infants could be quickly and easily absorbed and properly cared for. If more adoptable children become available, agencies could give greater consideration to fertile couples with children and single persons as potential adoptive parents.

Utah has the highest adoption option index (51.9), five times larger than the national average of 10.0. This indicates that there are five adoptions for every 100 abortions and births to unmarried women. Eleven other states have adoption option indexes roughly two-to-three times higher than the U.S. average (Idaho, South Dakota, Oregon, Alaska, Arkansas, Montana, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Illinois, South Carolina, and Vermont). These eleven states have two-to-three adoptions for every 100 abortions and births to unmarried women. These states can be argued to have better counseling, services, and facilities to orient pregnant women towards adoption--among other factors.

On the other hand, six states (California, Louisiana, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Virginia, and New Jersey) have indexes which are less than one-half the national average, indicating a much lower level of adoption activity than the national average. NCFA does not wish to "point a finger" at these states, because there are many fine agencies in these areas struggling to do excellent work with very limited resources. It is also noteworthy that one of these states (California) has been the leader in promoting independent and "open" adoptions; thus adoption activity does not necessarily increase if these policy changes are implemented. Resources may in fact be the key, and state legislatures should take a very close look at existing funding levels for public agencies, and more resources for private agencies should be made available by churches, foundations, corporations, and public-spirited citizens. Hopefully, NCFA's adoption option index will become an objective measure used henceforth to guage the level of services and obtain more resources to make the adoption option a choice selected more often.

NCFA takes neither a "pro-choice" nor a "pro-life" position on abortion, but stresses the importance for open dialogue between those of different persuasions. NCFA also recognizes that some aborted fetuses, if allowed to gestate to term, would not have resulted in live births. Also, some abortions are to married women, who would not relinquish for adoption if their pregnancies were carried to term. Nor does NCFA suggest that all unmarried women should choose adoption for their babies. It is a fact that 97 percent of unmarried women now choose to parent their liveborn babies. The opportunity to choose between various appropriate options is an important element of our democratic, pluralistic society. It is all too often forgotten that adoption is one of those choices which could have major benefits for all concerned. Pregnant women who choose to abort may not have maternity homes in their communities, or adequate counselling, or the social, financial, and medical support available to carry their pregnancies to term and then make an adoption plan for their babies. Women who now deliver unwanted babies without a supportive male partner may not know that there are at least one million stable couples now available to adopt the babies that they may attempt to raise with great difficulty, and that the evidence shows that both they and their babies can live better lives if the adoption option is selected. The fact that NCFA's adoption option index varies so greatly across different geographic areas indicates that adoption choices are not constant, and are amenable to improved services. The five top-ranked states have ten times the relative number of infant adoptions when compared to the five bottom-ranked states. The index therefore shows how much room for improvement there is in certain areas, where service and activity levels in the field of pregnancy counselling and services for pregnant women should be closely examined.

The index needs critical attention, discussion among adoption professionals, and more in depth research. For example, the raw statistical data and regulations information presented in this Factbook should be the basis for correlation, regression, and path analysis studies, using states as the unit of analysis with the adoption option index as the dependent outcome variable. Eventually the index could be refined, for example by making it age-specific, or race-specific. Also, foreign infant adoptions could be added to the index. Finally, more specific research questions could be addressed, such as: "to what extent do variations in private, public and independent adoptions relate to the index?" NCFA promises to be active in the dialogue.

23. National Trends in Related and Unrelated Adoptions—1951 to 1986

U.S. adoption data are available from 1951 to 1975, and with NCFA's surveys, for 1982 and 1986 as well (table 11). Adoptions rose from 72,000 in 1951 to a peak of 175,000 in 1970, and have declined to 104,088 in 1986. However, unrelated adoptions rose from 33,800 in 1951 to a peak of 89,200 in 1970, fell substantially in the early 1970's, and have remained relatively constant at about 50,000 per year in 1974, 1975, 1982, and 1986. Unrelated adoptions as a percentage of total adoptions have comprised less than half of all adoptions since 1971.

Figure 5 is a line graph which shows trends in related and unrelated adoptions from 1951 to 1986. The peak in total adoptions in 1970 is readily observed, as are declines in total and related adoptions in the 1980's. Unrelated adoptions have remained at a constant number since the mid-1970's through 1986.

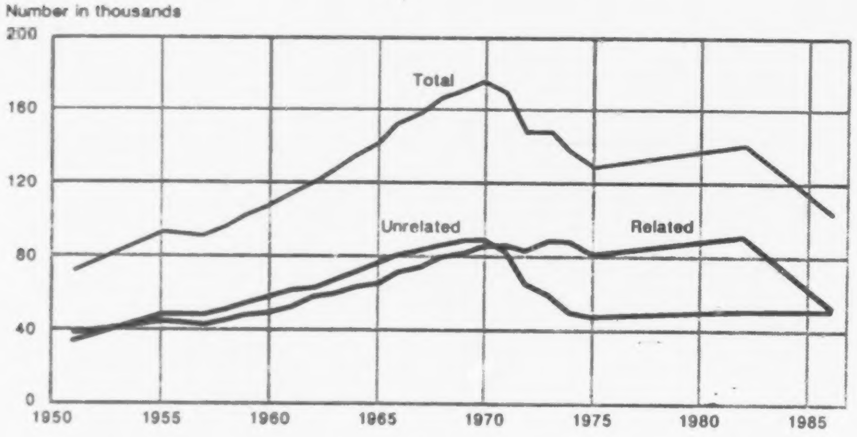


Figure 5. Total related and unrelated adoptions: 1951-86

SOURCE: National Committee For Adoption
NOTE: 1982 and 1986 include domestic adoptions only.

24. National Trends in Public Agency, Private Agency, and Independent Adoptions—1951 to 1986

Table 12 and Figure 6 show the long term trend in agency and independent adoptions. In the 1950's, public agencies handled about 20 percent of unrelated adoptions, and this rose fairly steadily to almost 40 percent in the mid-1970's through 1986. Private agency adoptions have fallen from 40 percent of the total in the early 1960's to less than 30 percent in the 1980's. Independent adoptions comprised half of unrelated adoptions in the 1950's, dropped steadily through the 1970's, and have risen to nearly one-third of unrelated adoptions in 1982 and 1986.

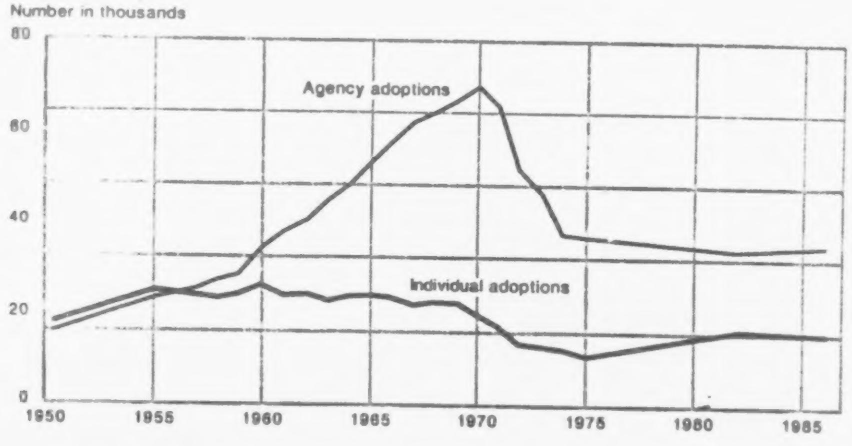


Figure 6. Unrelated domestic adoptions by agencies (public and private) and independent adoptions by private individuals: 1951-86

SOURCE: National Committee For Adoption

Figure 6 is a line graph which depicts the number of agency adoptions (numbers for public and private agencies have been combined) and independent adoptions. Agency adoptions peaked in 1970, fell sharply in the early 1970's, and have been fairly constant since that time through 1986. Independent adoptions have been much more stable than agency adoptions over the 1951 to 1986 period. After bottoming out in the mid-1970's, independent adoptions seem to have increased slightly through 1986.

25. Countries of Origin for Foreign Adoptions—1985 to 1987

NCFA's 1985 Adoption Factbook reported in detail on the countries of origin for foreign adoptions for the fiscal years 1979 through 1984. Table 13 shows countries of origin for 1985 through 1987. For these and earlier years, including the current update, the annual number of foreign adoptions per fiscal year is as follows:

1973 - 4,323
1974 - 5,446
1975 - 6,290
1976 - 7,051
1977 - 6,854
1978 - 5,652
1979 - 4,864
1980 - 5,139
1981 - 4,868
1982 - 5,749
1983 - 7,127
1984 - 8,327
1985 - 9,286
1986 - 9,945
1987 - 10,097

Therefore, the 1987 count of 10,097 foreign adoptions represents the largest number in the past 15 years.

The Immigration and Naturalization count of 9,945 foreign adoptions is for fiscal year 1986 (October 1, 1985 through September 30, 1986), and includes adoptees destined for Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The 1986 foreign adoptions count of 10,019 reported in tables 1, 5, and 8, and in Figure 1 are for the calendar year, and exclude adoptees destined for Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

As in previous years, there are very few foreign adoptions from Europe and Africa, and continued increases from Asia.

26. Foreign Adoptions to U.S. States—1985 to 1987

The data presented in table 14 show the states of destination for foreign adoptees for 1985-87, and updates similar data presented in NCFA's 1985 Adoption Factbook for 1982-84. Note that these 1985-87 data are for fiscal years, and do not correspond with data for calendar 1986 as presented in tables 1, 5, and 8. In 1987, large number of foreign adoptees went to New York, Minnesota, California, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Washington, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Wisconsin. These eleven states all had more than 300 foreign adoptions each and together absorbed more than half of all foreign adoptees. These are large population States where the demand for adoption is numerically large. It is worth noting that none of these States scored very high on NCFA's adoption option index for domestic adoption.

It is possible that in areas where the adoption option index is low due to few domestic adoptions, couples alternatively pursue the foreign adoption option. It is also possible that the adoption option is not presented as often to single pregnant women if there are readily adoptable children from other countries available. This question needs further study, and could be pursued further with additional I.N.S. information on foreign adoptions of infants to States.

Over the 1985-87 period, four States recorded increases of foreign adoption in excess of 50 percent, but no State recorded a decrease of this magnitude. Because adoptions are relatively rare events, small fluctuations sometimes result in large percentage changes. For this reason, one must use caution in interpreting the percentage change fluctuations shown here.

27. Characteristics of Foreign Adoptees to the U.S.—Sex, Age and Major Countries of Origin—1985 to 1987

Foreign adoptees tend to be female (56 percent), and over three-fifths are under one year of age. Note, however, that 5.0 percent are ten years of age or over. Nearly sixty percent of foreign adoptions go to ten States, which tend to be large population areas. Korea continues to rank as the number one country of origin for foreign adoptions, and more than half of foreign adoptions come from this country.

Korean adoptions (from South Korea) predominate in foreign adoptions for a number of unique cultural reasons (Smith, 1988). Married couples there have small houses and insufficient funds for more than two children. Unmarried mothers know that children born out-of-wedlock and of mixed race have little chance of getting a good education. Furthermore, Korean tradition stresses ancestry worship and racial purity, and Korea has high population density and rapid urbanization. Rather than create a large pool of children waiting for adoption, Koreans have placed high value on children's well-being and have chosen the path of international adoptions. Korea tends to have very stringent adoptive parent requirements in order to ensure the well being of its children, including:

- parents must be in the 25-45 age range,
- no more than 15 years between spousal ages,
- parents must be no less than 20 nor more than 40 years older than the adoptive child,
- must be married no less than three years,
- must have no more than four children,
- infants usually reserved for childless couples,
- preference given to homes where one parent can stay home with the child for six months,
- adoption by singles is prohibited,
- it must have been over one year since any prior adoption, and
- parents must not be seeking to adopt another child elsewhere at the same time.

Ultimately, Korea plans to develop and strengthen its domestic adoption program, limiting and eventually ending foreign adoption, but for now, it is a solution with mutual benefits for all concerned.

28. Better Federal and State Data on Adoption Needed

During the 1950's, 1960's, and mid-1970's, the Federal government collected statistics on adoptions from the states. Since 1975, national statistical data on adoption has been severely limited. While NCFA is a non-governmental and relatively small private agency, it has twice managed to collect and publish national adoption data (1982 and 1986). If it is a feasible task for NCFA, it is certainly a feasible task for survey statisticians in the Federal government. The history of Federal efforts to re-establish a data collection system for adoption have been summarized elsewhere.

In NCFA's 1985 Adoption Factbook (pages 105-6), we published all seven recommendations of the Adoption Information Improvement Workgroup (AIIW). The AIIW was established in October 1984, and the recommendations of this group of federal experts were made the following year. AIIW's first recommendation was:

> **"To implement a nationwide adoption information system accounting for all types of adoptions on an annual basis".**

As of early 1989, no lead agency has been selected, no funding for a statistical agency, for its staff, and to reimburse States has been set aside, no data collection system has been designed, and no Federal data have been produced.

In 1986, Congress passed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986, which required all states to report annually, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to collect and publish annually, adoption and foster care data. Federal regulations implementing this law are overdue as of this writing, even though DHHS was required by Congress to publish regulations by December 31, 1988.

President Reagan announced the formation of the Interagency Task Force on Adoption on August 24, 1987. He asked the Task Force to report to him, through the Domestic Policy Council, with specific recommendations on how adoption could be encouraged. A summary of the report was released by the press secretary on December 4 (White House, 1987; National Adoption Reports, 1987; Interagency Task Force on Adoption, 1988). The entire report, America's Waiting Children, was released in March 1988. Selected highlights were as follows:

- The Task force reviewed pending Congressional legislation, Federal laws and regulations on adoption, Federal and State tax codes, adoption problems experienced by military families, State laws pertaining to adoption, recommendations by interested groups and individuals, educational activities that highlight adoption, and successful public and private adoption initiatives. The Task Force interacted with more than 80 organizations, state and local government agencies, judges, caseworkers, birth parents, attorneys and major adoption advocacy groups regarding concerns and proposals pertaining to adoption.

- The Task Force recommended the continued funding of the Adolescent Family Life Program as a demonstration program.

- The Task Force did not recommend any changes in current State policies pertaining to sharing of background information about prospective adoptive parents with birth parents, or in rules pertaining to access to adoption records, because these policy decisions rest with individual States and agencies.

- The Task Force recommended that Federal, State and private agencies make a concerted effort to recruit minority families and expedite the adoption process on their behalf.

- The Task Force stated that transracial adoption should be permissible, and stand alongside an active minority recruitment policy.

- The Task Force stated that marital status, age or handicapped conditions should not preclude individuals from consideration as adoptive parents; however, adoption by homosexuals should not be supported.

- The Task Force stated that children often remain in foster care programs for too long a period of time before a plan for adoption is developed. It recommended in-depth review of foster care funding and the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act (PL 96-272).

- The Task Force noted the absence of reliable data on the incidence of adoption as a longstanding problem, making it difficult to analyze and monitor adoption trends. The Task Force endorsed efforts currently underway in the Federal government to remedy this situation.

The Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA), Title XX of the Public Health Services Act was implemented in 1981. The AFLA is administered by the Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs of the Department of Health and Human Services. The AFLA provides funding for three types of programs: research related to adolescent pregnancy; demonstration projects for the prevention of adolescent sexual activity and pregnancy; and demonstration projects for the provision of services to pregnant adolescents, their male partners and their respective families. The purposes of the AFLA are:

1) to find effective means of reaching adolescents before they are sexually active, to promote self discipline and other prudent approaches to the problem of adolescent premarital sexual relations, including adolescent pregnancy;

2) to promote adoption as an alternative for adolescent parents;

3) to establish innovative, comprehensive approaches to the delivery of care services for pregnant adolescents and adolescent parents and their families;

4) To encourage and support research projects and demonstration projects concerning the societal causes and consequences of adolescent premarital sexual relations, contraceptive use, pregnancy and childrearing;

5) To support evaluative research to identify effective services which alleviate, eliminate, or resolve any negative consequences of adolescent premarital sexual relations and adolescent childbearing for the parents, the child, and their families; and

6) To encourage and provide for the dissemination of results, findings, and information from programs and research projects relating to adolescent premarital sexual relations, pregnancy and parenthood.

The legislation specifies services which must be made available to each pregnant adolescent either directly by the grantee agency or by networking with another community resource. This assures that each adolescent will receive comprehensive services to meet her multiple needs and also promotes cooperation between community services. Required services include adoption counseling and referral services which present adoption as an option for pregnant adolescents, including referral to licensed adoption agencies in the community if the eligible grant recipient is not a licensed adoption agency. However, counseling and referral for abortion is prohibited to grantees.

The AFLA has been controversial since its inception because many grants were to religious organizations, and separation of church and state were held in question because of beliefs of some that AFLA's grantees were imposing their religious beliefs on teens. In mid-1988, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that AFLA asserts a legitimate state interest of promoting adoption over abortion and the delay of sexual activity by unmarried adolescents, and does not violate the Constitution, but agreed that monitoring of AFLA grants is necessary (Unmarried Parents Today, 1988).

The Administration for Children, Youth and Families let a contract to the National Center for State Courts to develop a protocol for national adoption data collection from States (Flango, 1987). At this writing, Dr. Victor E. Flango, NCSC's Director of the Adoption Information Improvement Project (AIIP), is organizing workshops with State health departments, State courts, adoption specialists in Social Services, and vital records registrars to determine the feasibility and costs of a new adoption data system. NCFA's William Pierce is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee to the AIIP. At the July 1988 meeting of the Association for Vital Records and Health Statistics in Burlington, Vermont, Flango reported that the goals include these steps:

a) getting input from all States,
b) reporting back to ACYF,
c) ACYF will make recommendations to its parent organization, the Department of Health and Human Services,
d) DHHS will designate a lead agency and ask Congress for funding and authorizing legislation, and
e) States would hopefully begin collecting uniform adoption data statistics in 1991, with full implementation of the system by October 1, 1991.

The data items being considered by AIIP and States for collection on a record by record basis are shown on the last two pages of this section A number of issues will have to be worked out for significant progress to be made, including:

a) Confidentiality. There are many different types of State laws in effect which go to great length to protect the confidentiality of the biological parents, adoptive parents, and adopted child. While no names are obtained on the AIIP form, adoption is a relatively rare event, and detailed identifying characteristics could help reveal identities.

b) Data Sources. In some States the various data items might have to be supplied by different bureaus (social services, State courts, and vital records), which is administratively cumbersome.

c) Cost. States may be reluctant to start a new data system unless they are fully reimbursed for the costs in developing the system, and collecting and tabulating the data.

d) Voluntary or Mandatory? Federal law which might mandate adoption data collection would be in conflict with many different State laws regarding social services, State courts, and enabling legislation for vital records. For example, there is no Federal law requiring that all States collect vital statistics for births. States have such laws, but State reporting of vital statistics to the Federal government is voluntary. Federal/State contracts are negotiated annually for the Federal government to purchase State data, but a State could theoretically drop out of the national system. Whether it would be voluntary or mandatory for States to provide adoption data will remain a thorny issue for States and Congress to tackle.

NCFA is concerned that not enough progress has been made on these issues for a data system to be in place in 1991. Furthermore, a lead Federal agency has not been identified, funded, or staffed. Finally, the budget people in Washington are looking for ways to cut the deficit, not establish a new data system. However, they may not realize the net fiscal benefit to be derived from current data needed to manage U.S. domestic adoption policy issues.

NCFA would like to go out of the national adoption survey business. But we did national surveys in 1982 and 1986 partially to prove to the Administration and Congress that such statistics could be economically collected now and be useful. The improved statistical rigor of the Federal government with state cooperation in this endeavor annually would yield even more useful information. NCFA will continue to be a supportive partner in achieving this most worthwhile goal.

Adoption Information Improvement Project (AIIP) data sheet distributed by the National Center for State Courts for State review (July 1988 draft)

Non-Confidential Information DRAFT

ADOPTIVE CHILD

	MO	DA	YR
Date of birth			

Race (check one):

☐ White
☐ Black
☐ Indian (Including American Eskimo and Aleut)
☐ Chinese
☐ Japanese
☐ Hawaiian
☐ Filipino
☐ Other non-White
☐ Other Asian or Pacific Islander
☐ Unknown or Not Classifiable

Ethnicity:	Yes	No
Hispanic (If yes, check one below):	☐	☐

☐ Mexican American (Chicano)
☐ Puerto Rican
☐ Cuban
☐ Other Hispanic/Spanish

	Male	Female
Sex:	☐	☐

	Yes	No
Foreign-born child?	☐	☐

BIOLOGICAL PARENTS

	MO	DA	YR
Mother's date of birth			
Father's date of birth			

Marital status at time of birth:

☐ Married
☐ Not married

Termination of parental rights:

☐ Mother—voluntary
☐ Mother—involuntary
☐ Father—voluntary
☐ Father—involuntary

AUSPICES OF ADOPTION (check one):

☐ Public agency—direct
☐ Public agency—contracted
☐ Private (voluntary) agency
☐ Tribal agency
☐ Individually-arranged

	Yes	No
Child with handicap?	☐	☐
Member of sibling group adopted together?	☐	☐

Adoption assistance provided, if any:

☐ Title IV-E funding
☐ Medicaid funding
☐ State only funding

Disposition of adoption petition:

☐ Granted
☐ Refused

	MO	DA	YR
Date of Disposition			

DRAFT

ADOPTIVE MOTHER

	MO	DA	YR
Date of birth			

Race (check one):
- ☐ White
- ☐ Black
- ☐ Indian (Including American Eskimo and Aleut)
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Japanese
- ☐ Hawaiian
- ☐ Filipino
- ☐ Other Non-White
- ☐ Other Asian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ Unknown or Not Classifiable

Ethnicity:

	Yes	No
Hispanic	☐	☐

(If yes, check one below):
- ☐ Mexican American (Chicano)
- ☐ Puerto Rican
- ☐ Cuban
- ☐ Other Hispanic/Spanish

Marital status:
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Not married

Relationship to child (check one):
- ☐ Step-parent
- ☐ Nonparent relative
- ☐ Foster parent
- ☐ Non-relative

ADOPTIVE FATHER

	MO	DA	YR
Date of birth			

Race (check one):
- ☐ White
- ☐ Black
- ☐ Indian (Including American Eskimo and Aleut)
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Japanese
- ☐ Hawaiian
- ☐ Filipino
- ☐ Other Non-White
- ☐ Other Asian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ Unknown or Not Classifiable

Ethnicity:

	Yes	No
Hispanic	☐	☐

(If yes, check one below):
- ☐ Mexican American (Chicano)
- ☐ Puerto Rican
- ☐ Cuban
- ☐ Other Hispanic/Cuban

Marital status:
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Not married

Relationship to child (check one):
- ☐ Step-parent
- ☐ Nonparent relative
- ☐ Foster parent
- ☐ Non-relative

Table 1. Related and unrelated domestic adoptions and foreign adoptions: United States, 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey

Geographic division and State	(a) Related and unrelated domestic adoptions	(b) Related domestic adoptions	(c) Unrelated domestic adoptions (subtotal d+e+f)	(d) Unrelated domestic adoptions by public agencies	(e) Unrelated domestic adoptions by private agencies	(f) Unrelated domestic adoptions by private indi-viduals	(g) Unrelated domestic adoptions of infants (included in c)	(h) Unrelated domestic adoptions of children with special needs (included in c)	(i) Foreign adoptions (not included in a-h)
United States..........	104,088	52,931	51,157	20,064	15,063	16,040	24,589	13,568	10,019
New England.............	5,520	3,139	2,381	938	1,182	261	1,184	573	784
Maine....................	873	601	272	109	70	93	56	25	53
New Hampshire............	512	346	166	62	43	61	49	50	54
Vermont..................	333	203	130	51	34	45	97	35	56
Massachusetts............	2,334	1,176	1,158	411	747	0	560	307	383
Rhode Island.............	493	313	180	65	53	62	115	48	20
Connecticut..............	975	500	475	240	235	0	307	108	218
Middle Atlantic..........	12,949	5,882	7,067	3,084	1,802	2,181	2,851	1,707	2,085
New York.................	7,213	3,635	3,578	1,606	848	1,124	1,732	920	1,027
New Jersey...............	1,631	178	1,453	666	429	358	134	247	537
Pennsylvania.............	4,105	2,069	2,036	812	525	699	985	540	521
East North Central.......	17,218	6,873	10,345	3,598	3,770	2,987	5,079	2,891	1,705
Ohio.....................	1,898	329	1,569	785	322	462	759	416	227
Indiana..................	3,791	2,296	1,495	1,058	235	202	275	489	94
Illinois.................	5,430	1,051	4,379	714	1,576	2,089	2,564	1,160	411
Michigan.................	4,115	2,074	2,041	725	1,316	0	988	541	618
Wisconsin................	1,984	1,123	861	316	311	234	493	285	355
West North Central.......	9,229	5,896	3,333	1,240	1,384	709	1,411	873	1,441
Minnesota................	2,100	1,500	600	290	285	25	260	215	771
Iowa.....................	1,504	783	721	142	411	168	148	100	304
Missouri.................	2,660	1,755	905	501	174	230	438	262	164
North Dakota.............	484	311	173	1	172	0	49	64	34
South Dakota.............	482	247	235	75	113	47	114	49	39
Nebraska.................	1,009	801	208	35	102	71	164	53	83
Kansas...................	990	499	491	196	127	168	238	130	46
South Atlantic...........	21,033	12,515	8,518	3,546	2,216	2,756	4,235	2,292	978
Delaware.................	186	88	98	48	50	0	25	0	44
Maryland.................	1,400	647	753	231	277	245	364	200	331
District of Columbia.....	326	164	162	65	42	55	78	43	24
Virginia.................	2,348	1,541	807	448	241	118	120	223	224
West Virginia............	1,254	982	272	100	40	132	135	120	46
North Carolina...........	3,535	2,515	1,020	568	322	130	494	270	67
South Carolina...........	1,569	930	639	255	165	219	532	169	27
Georgia..................	2,732	1,776	956	310	96	550	642	257	87
Florida..................	7,683	3,872	3,811	1,521	983	1,307	1,845	1,010	128
East South Central.......	7,046	4,532	2,514	909	612	993	1,307	676	276
Kentucky.................	1,040	646	394	182	67	145	279	169	85
Tennessee................	2,058	1,249	809	221	262	326	392	214	90
Alabama..................	2,480	1,897	583	216	95	272	284	100	58
Mississippi..............	1,468	740	728	290	188	250	352	193	43

See notes at end of table.

Table 1. Related and unrelated domestic adoptions and foreign adoptions: United States, 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey--Continued

Geographic division and State	(a) Related and unrelated domestic adoptions	(b) Related domestic adoptions	(c) Unrelated domestic adoptions (subtotal d+e+f)	(d) Unrelated domestic adoptions by public agencies	(e) Unrelated domestic adoptions by private agencies	(f) Unrelated domestic adoptions by private indi-viduals	(g) Unrelated domestic adoptions of infants (included in c)	(h) Unrelated domestic adoptions of children with special needs (included in c)	(i) Foreign adoptions (not included in a or c)
West South Central.......	14,572	7,639	6,933	2,734	1,796	2,403	3,291	1,291	406
Arkansas.....................	1,541	777	764	305	197	262	370	202	31
Louisiana....................	1,683	1,188	495	165	135	195	174	278	57
Oklahoma.....................	2,350	1,175	1,175	469	303	403	569	311	92
Texas........................	8,998	4,499	4,499	1,795	1,161	1,543	2,178	500	226
Mountain.................	7,220	3,554	3,666	1,555	893	1,218	1,607	795	680
Montana......................	652	329	323	129	83	111	156	86	75
Idaho........................	330	53	277	63	114	100	163	73	60
Wyoming......................	232	117	115	46	30	39	56	30	14
Colorado.....................	2,036	1,267	769	275	300	194	326	250	273
New Mexico...................	979	177	802	595	119	88	97	7	55
Arizona......................	1,303	657	646	258	167	221	313	171	75
Utah.........................	1,261	782	479	58	38	383	416	127	113
Nevada.......................	427	172	255	131	42	82	80	51	15
Pacific..................	9,301	2,901	6,400	2,460	1,408	2,532	3,624	2,470	1,664
Washington...................	2,133	1,169	964	246	429	289	620	250	445
Oregon.......................	1,161	125	1,036	295	446	295	697	300	290
California...................	5,069	1,093	3,976	1,751	423	1,802	2,070	1,808	714
Alaska.......................	662	322	340	135	88	117	162	90	67
Hawaii.......................	276	192	84	33	22	29	75	22	148

NOTES: (a) Categories a-h exclude 10,019 foreign-born children adopted from other countries in calendar 1986. (b) Categories a-h obtained by NCFA survey of State adoption experts listed in Appendix A, "Sources of Data Shown in Table 1". Category i obtained by NCFA from Immigration and Naturalization Service, and excludes 7 adoptees to Guam, 24 to Puerto Rico, and 2 to the Virgin Islands. (c) For methods of using data categories from reporting states to derive unreported data categories, see Appendix A.6., "Sources of data in table 1".

Table 2. Number and percentage distribution of related and unrelated domestic adoptions for each State, Division, and the United States: 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey

Geographic division and State	Related and unrelated domestic adoptions		Related domestic adoptions	Unrelated domestic adoptions		
	Number	Percent		Unrelated adoptions by public agencies	Unrelated adoptions by private agencies	Unrelated adoptions by private individuals
United States..........	104,088	100.0	50.9	19.3	14.5	15.4
New England..............	5,520	100.0	56.9	17.0	21.4	4.7
Maine........................	873	100.0	68.8	12.5	8.0	10.7
New Hampshire................	512	100.0	67.6	12.1	8.4	11.9
Vermont......................	333	100.0	61.0	15.3	10.2	13.5
Massachusetts................	2,334	100.0	50.4	17.6	32.0	0.0
Rhode Island.................	493	100.0	63.5	13.2	10.8	12.6
Connecticut..................	975	100.0	51.3	24.6	24.1	0.0
Middle Atlantic..........	12,949	100.0	45.4	23.8	13.9	16.8
New York.....................	7,213	100.0	50.4	22.3	11.8	15.6
New Jersey...................	1,631	100.0	10.9	40.8	26.3	21.9
Pennsylvania.................	4,105	100.0	50.4	19.8	12.8	17.0
East North Central.......	17,218	100.0	39.9	20.9	21.9	17.3
Ohio.........................	1,898	100.0	17.3	41.4	17.0	24.3
Indiana......................	3,791	100.0	60.6	27.9	6.2	5.3
Illinois.....................	5,430	100.0	19.4	13.1	29.0	38.5
Michigan.....................	4,115	100.0	50.4	17.6	32.0	0.0
Wisconsin....................	1,984	100.0	56.6	15.9	27.5	0.0
West North Central.......	9,229	100.0	63.9	13.4	15.0	7.7
Minnesota....................	2,100	100.0	71.4	13.8	13.6	1.2
Iowa.........................	1,504	100.0	52.1	9.4	27.3	11.2
Missouri.....................	2,660	100.0	66.0	18.8	6.5	8.6
North Dakota.................	484	100.0	64.3	0.2	35.5	0.0
South Dakota.................	482	100.0	51.2	15.6	23.4	9.8
Nebraska.....................	1,009	100.0	79.4	3.5	10.1	7.0
Kansas.......................	990	100.0	50.4	19.8	12.8	17.0
South Atlantic...........	21,033	100.0	59.5	16.9	10.5	13.1
Delaware.....................	186	100.0	47.3	25.8	26.9	0.0
Maryland.....................	1,400	100.0	46.2	16.5	19.8	17.5
District of Columbia.........	326	100.0	50.3	19.9	12.9	16.9
Virginia.....................	2,348	100.0	65.6	19.1	10.3	5.0
West Virginia................	1,254	100.0	78.3	8.0	3.2	10.5
North Carolina...............	3,535	100.0	71.1	16.1	9.1	3.7
South Carolina...............	1,569	100.0	59.3	16.3	10.5	14.0
Georgia......................	2,732	100.0	65.0	11.3	3.5	20.1
Florida......................	7,683	100.0	50.4	19.8	12.8	17.0
East South Central.......	7,046	100.0	64.3	12.9	8.7	14.1
Kentucky.....................	1,040	100.0	62.1	17.5	6.4	13.9
Tennessee....................	2,058	100.0	60.7	10.7	12.7	15.8
Alabama......................	2,480	100.0	76.5	8.7	3.8	11.0
Mississippi..................	1,468	100.0	50.4	19.8	12.8	17.0

See notes at end of table.

Table 2. Number and percentage distribution of related and unrelated domestic adoptions for each State, Division, and the United States: 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey--Continued

Geographic division and State	Related and unrelated domestic adoptions		Related domestic adoptions	Unrelated domestic adoptions		
	Number	Percent		Unrelated adoptions by public agencies	Unrelated adoptions by private agencies	Unrelated adoptions by private individuals
West South Central.......	14,572	100.0	52.4	18.8	12.3	16.5
Arkansas.....................	1,541	100.0	50.4	19.8	12.8	17.0
Louisiana....................	1,683	100.0	70.6	9.8	8.0	11.6
Oklahoma.....................	2,350	100.0	50.0	20.0	12.9	17.1
Texas........................	8,998	100.0	50.0	19.9	12.9	17.1
Mountain.................	7,220	100.0	49.2	21.5	12.4	16.9
Montana......................	652	100.0	50.5	19.8	12.7	17.0
Idaho........................	330	100.0	16.1	19.1	34.5	30.3
Wyoming......................	232	100.0	50.4	19.8	12.9	16.8
Colorado.....................	2,036	100.0	62.2	13.5	14.7	9.5
New Mexico...................	979	100.0	18.1	60.8	12.2	9.0
Arizona......................	1,303	100.0	50.4	19.8	12.8	17.0
Utah.........................	1,261	100.0	62.0	4.6	3.0	30.4
Nevada.......................	427	100.0	40.3	30.7	9.8	19.2
Pacific..................	9,301	100.0	31.1	26.4	15.1	27.2
Washington...................	2,133	100.0	54.8	11.5	20.1	13.5
Oregon.......................	1,161	100.0	10.8	25.4	38.4	25.4
California...................	5,069	100.0	21.6	34.5	8.3	35.5
Alaska.......................	662	100.0	48.6	20.4	13.3	17.7
Hawaii.......................	276	100.0	69.6	12.0	8.0	10.5

NOTES: Does not include foreign adoptions. Percentages may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Table 3. Number and percentage distribution of types of unrelated domestic adoptions for each State, Division, and the United States: 1986 National Committee for Adoption Survey

Geographic division and State	Unrelated domestic adoptions		Unrelated domestic adoptions		
	Number	Percent	Unrelated adoptions by public agencies	Unrelated adoptions by private agencies	Unrelated adoptions by private individuals
United States..........	51,157	100.0	39.2	29.4	31.4
New England..............	2,381	100.0	39.4	49.6	11.0
Maine........................	272	100.0	40.0	25.7	34.2
New Hampshire...............	166	100.0	37.3	25.9	36.7
Vermont......................	130	100.0	39.2	26.2	34.6
Massachusetts...............	1,158	100.0	35.5	64.5	0.0
Rhode Island................	180	100.0	36.1	29.4	34.4
Connecticut.................	475	100.0	50.5	49.5	0.0
Middle Atlantic..........	7,067	100.0	43.6	25.5	30.9
New York.....................	3,578	100.0	44.9	23.7	31.4
New Jersey...................	1,453	100.0	45.8	29.5	24.6
Pennsylvania................	2,036	100.0	39.9	25.8	34.3
East North Central.......	10,345	100.0	34.8	36.4	28.9
Ohio.........................	1,569	100.0	50.0	20.5	29.4
Indiana......................	1,495	100.0	70.8	15.7	13.5
Illinois.....................	4,379	100.0	16.3	36.0	47.7
Michigan.....................	2,041	100.0	35.5	64.5	0.0
Wisconsin....................	861	100.0	36.7	36.1	27.2
West North Central.......	3,333	100.0	37.2	41.5	21.3
Minnesota....................	600	100.0	48.3	47.5	4.2
Iowa.........................	721	100.0	19.7	57.0	23.3
Missouri.....................	905	100.0	55.4	19.2	25.4
North Dakota.................	173	100.0	0.6	99.4	0.0
South Dakota.................	235	100.0	31.9	48.1	20.0
Nebraska.....................	208	100.0	16.8	49.0	34.1
Kansas.......................	491	100.0	39.9	25.9	34.2
South Atlantic...........	8,518	100.0	41.6	26.0	32.4
Delaware.....................	98	100.0	49.0	51.0	0.0
Maryland.....................	753	100.0	30.7	36.8	32.5
District of Columbia.........	162	100.0	40.1	25.9	34.0
Virginia.....................	807	100.0	55.5	29.9	14.6
West Virginia................	272	100.0	36.8	14.7	48.5
North Carolina...............	1,020	100.0	55.7	31.6	12.7
South Carolina...............	639	100.0	39.9	25.8	34.3
Georgia......................	956	100.0	32.4	10.0	57.5
Florida......................	3,811	100.0	39.9	25.8	34.3
East South Central.......	2,514	100.0	36.2	24.3	39.5
Kentucky.....................	394	100.0	46.2	17.0	36.8
Tennessee....................	809	100.0	27.3	32.4	40.3
Alabama......................	583	100.0	37.0	16.3	46.7
Mississippi..................	728	100.0	39.8	25.8	34.3

See notes at end of table.

Table 3. Number and percentage distribution of types of unrelated domestic adoptions for each State, Division, and the United States: 1986 National Committee for Adoption Survey--Continued

Geographic division and State	Unrelated domestic adoptions		Unrelated domestic adoptions		
	Number	Percent	Unrelated adoptions by public agencies	Unrelated adoptions by private agencies	Unrelated adoptions by private individuals
West South Central.......	6,933	100.0	39.4	25.9	34.7
Arkansas.....................	764	100.0	39.9	25.8	34.3
Louisiana....................	495	100.0	33.3	27.3	39.4
Oklahoma.....................	1,175	100.0	39.9	25.8	34.3
Texas........................	4,499	100.0	39.9	25.8	34.3
Mountain.................	3,666	100.0	42.4	24.4	33.2
Montana......................	323	100.0	39.9	25.7	34.4
Idaho........................	277	100.0	22.7	41.2	36.1
Wyoming......................	115	100.0	40.0	26.1	33.9
Colorado.....................	769	100.0	35.8	39.0	25.2
New Mexico...................	802	100.0	74.2	14.8	11.0
Arizona......................	646	100.0	39.9	25.9	34.2
Utah.........................	479	100.0	12.1	7.9	80.0
Nevada.......................	255	100.0	51.4	16.5	32.2
Pacific..................	6,400	100.0	38.4	22.0	39.6
Washington...................	964	100.0	25.5	44.5	30.0
Oregon.......................	1,036	100.0	28.5	43.1	28.5
California...................	3,976	100.0	44.0	10.6	45.3
Alaska.......................	340	100.0	39.7	25.9	34.4
Hawaii.......................	84	100.0	39.3	26.2	34.5

NOTES: Unrelated domestic adoptions category does not include foreign adoptions. Percentages may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Table 4. Number of unrelated domestic adoptions of infants and as a percentage of unrelated domestic adoptions, 1986 live births, and 1986 births to unmarried women for each State, Division, and the United States: 1986 National Committee for Adoption Survey

Geographic division and State	Unrelated domestic adoptions of infants...	...as a percentage of unrelated domestic adoptions	...as a percentage of 1986 live U.S. births[1]	...as a percentage of 1986 births to U.S. unmarried women[1]
United States..........	24,589	48.1	0.7	2.8
New England.............	1,184	49.7	0.7	3.5
Maine........................	56	20.6	0.3	1.8
New Hampshire................	49	29.5	0.3	2.2
Vermont......................	97	74.6	1.2	7.1
Massachusetts................	560	48.4	0.7	3.5
Rhode Island.................	115	63.9	0.9	4.3
Connecticut..................	307	64.6	0.7	3.6
Middle Atlantic..........	2,851	40.3	0.5	2.0
New York.....................	1,732	48.4	0.7	2.2
New Jersey...................	134	9.2	0.1	0.5
Pennsylvania.................	985	48.4	0.6	2.5
East North Central.......	5,079	49.1	0.8	3.6
Ohio.........................	759	48.4	0.5	2.1
Indiana......................	275	18.4	0.3	1.7
Illinois.....................	2,564	58.6	1.5	5.4
Michigan.....................	988	48.4	0.7	3.7
Wisconsin....................	493	57.3	0.7	3.5
West North Central.......	1,411	42.3	0.5	3.0
Minnesota....................	260	43.3	0.4	2.4
Iowa.........................	148	20.5	0.4	2.5
Missouri.....................	438	48.4	0.6	2.6
North Dakota.................	49	28.3	0.5	3.5
South Dakota.................	114	48.5	1.0	5.6
Nebraska.....................	164	78.8	0.7	4.3
Kansas.......................	238	48.5	0.6	3.6
South Atlantic...........	4,235	49.7	0.7	2.6
Delaware.....................	25	25.5	0.3	1.0
Maryland.....................	364	48.3	0.5	1.7
District of Columbia.........	78	48.1	0.8	1.3
Virginia.....................	120	14.9	0.1	0.6
West Virginia................	135	49.6	0.6	3.0
North Carolina...............	494	48.4	0.5	2.3
South Carolina...............	532	83.3	1.0	3.7
Georgia......................	642	67.2	0.7	2.4
Florida......................	1,845	48.4	1.1	4.1
East South Central.......	1,307	52.0	0.6	2.3
Kentucky.....................	279	70.8	0.5	2.7
Tennessee....................	392	48.5	0.6	2.3
Alabama......................	284	48.7	0.5	1.8
Mississippi..................	352	48.4	0.8	2.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Number of unrelated domestic adoptions of infants and as a percentage of unrelated domestic adoptions, 1986 live births, and 1986 births to unmarried women for each State, Division, and the United States: 1986 National Committee for Adoption Survey--Continued

Geographic division and State	Unrelated domestic adoptions of infants...	...as a percentage of unrelated domestic adoptions	...as a percentage of 1986 live U.S. births[1]	...as a percentage of 1986 births to U.S. unmarried women[1]
West South Central.......	3,291	47.5	0.7	3.4
Arkansas.....................	370	48.4	1.1	4.5
Louisiana....................	174	35.2	0.2	0.7
Oklahoma.....................	569	48.4	1.1	6.0
Texas........................	2,178	48.4	0.7	4.0
Mountain.................	1,607	43.8	0.7	3.6
Montana......................	156	48.3	1.2	6.9
Idaho........................	163	58.8	1.0	8.4
Wyoming......................	56	48.7	0.6	4.7
Colorado.....................	326	42.4	0.6	3.3
New Mexico...................	97	12.1	0.4	1.3
Arizona......................	313	48.5	0.5	2.0
Utah.........................	416	86.8	1.1	11.6
Nevada.......................	80	31.4	0.5	3.0
Pacific..................	3,624	56.6	0.6	2.3
Washington...................	620	64.3	0.9	4.5
Oregon.......................	697	67.3	1.8	8.7
California...................	2,070	52.1	0.4	1.6
Alaska.......................	162	47.6	1.3	6.4
Hawaii.......................	75	89.3	0.4	2.0

---

[1] Natality data on live births and births to unmarried women obtained from National Center for Health Statistics: "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1986" *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*. Vol. 37, No. 3, Supplement, July 12, 1988.

NOTE: Unrelated domestic adoptions of infants category does not include foreign adoptions.

Table 5. Total unrelated (domestic and foreign) adoptions and total foreign adoptions as a percentage of total unrelated adoptions for each State, Division, and the United States: 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey

Geographic division and State	Total unrelated adoptions (Unrelated domestic adoptions plus foreign adoptions)	Foreign adoptions as a percentage of total unrelated adoptions
United States	61,176	16.4
New England	3,165	24.8
Maine	325	16.3
New Hampshire	220	24.5
Vermont	186	30.1
Massachusetts	1,541	24.9
Rhode Island	200	10.0
Connecticut	693	31.5
Middle Atlantic	9,152	22.8
New York	4,605	22.3
New Jersey	1,990	27.0
Pennsylvania	2,557	20.4
East North Central	12,050	14.1
Ohio	1,796	12.6
Indiana	1,589	5.9
Illinois	4,790	8.6
Michigan	2,659	23.2
Wisconsin	1,216	29.2
West North Central	4,774	30.2
Minnesota	1,371	56.2
Iowa	1,025	29.7
Missouri	1,069	15.3
North Dakota	207	16.4
South Dakota	274	14.2
Nebraska	291	28.5
Kansas	537	8.6
South Atlantic	9,496	10.3
Delaware	142	31.0
Maryland	1,084	30.5
District of Columbia	186	12.9
Virginia	1,031	21.7
West Virginia	318	14.5
North Carolina	1,087	6.2
South Carolina	666	4.1
Georgia	1,043	8.3
Florida	3,939	3.2
East South Central	2,790	9.9
Kentucky	479	17.7
Tennessee	899	10.0
Alabama	641	9.0
Mississippi	771	5.6

See note at end of table.

Table 5. Total unrelated (domestic and foreign) adoptions and total foreign adoptions as a percentage of total unrelated adoptions for each State, Division, and the United States: 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey--Continued

Geographic division and State	Total unrelated adoptions (Unrelated domestic adoptions plus foreign adoptions)	Foreign adoptions as a percentage of total unrelated adoptions
West South Central	7,339	5.5
Arkansas	795	3.9
Louisiana	552	10.3
Oklahoma	1,267	7.3
Texas	4,725	4.8
Mountain	4,346	15.6
Montana	398	18.8
Idaho	337	17.8
Wyoming	129	10.9
Colorado	1,042	26.2
New Mexico	857	6.4
Arizona	721	10.4
Utah	592	19.1
Nevada	270	5.6
Pacific	8,064	20.6
Washington	1,409	31.6
Oregon	1,326	21.9
California	4,690	15.2
Alaska	407	16.5
Hawaii	232	63.8

NOTE: See note and sources on table 1.

Table 6. Percentage change in total related and unrelated domestic adoptions by State and Division: United States, 1982 and 1986 National Committee For Adoption Surveys

Geographic division and State	1982			1986			Percent increase + (or decrease -) in number, 1982 to 1986		
	Total domestic adoptions	Related domestic adoptions	Unrelated domestic adoptions	Total domestic adoptions	Related domestic adoptions	Unrelated domestic adoptions	Total domestic adoptions	Related domestic adoptions	Unrelated domestic adoptions
United States..........	141,861	91,141	50,720	104,088	52,931	51,157	(-26.6)	(-41.9)	+0.9
New England..............	6,075	3,977	2,098	5,520	3,139	2,381	(-9.1)	(-21.1)	+13.5
Maine.........................	1,011	740	271	873	601	272	(-13.6)	(-18.8)	+0.4
New Hampshire...............	607	409	198	512	346	166	(-15.7)	(-15.4)	(-16.2)
Vermont......................	328	156	172	333	203	130	+1.5	+30.1	(-24.4)
Massachusetts................	2,558	1,763	795	2,334	1,176	1,158	(-8.8)	(-33.3)	+45.7
Rhode Island.................	470	250	220	493	313	180	+4.9	+25.2	(-18.2)
Connecticut..................	1,101	659	442	975	500	475	(-11.4)	(-24.1)	+7.5
Middle Atlantic..........	19,310	11,536	7,774	12,949	5,882	7,067	(-32.9)	(-49.0)	(-9.1)
New York......................	9,000	5,630	3,370	7,213	3,635	3,578	(-19.9)	(-35.4)	+6.2
New Jersey....................	5,098	3,430	1,668	1,631	178	1,453	(-68.0)	(-94.8)	(-12.9)
Pennsylvania.................	5,212	2,476	2,736	4,105	2,069	2,036	(-21.2)	(-16.4)	(-25.6)
East North Central.......	27,028	18,017	9,011	17,218	6,873	10,345	(-36.3)	(-61.9)	+14.8
Ohio..........................	7,376	5,597	1,779	1,898	329	1,569	(-74.3)	(-94.1)	(-11.8)
Indiana.......................	4,783	3,842	941	3,791	2,296	1,495	(-20.7)	(-40.2)	+58.9
Illinois......................	6,553	3,311	3,242	5,430	1,051	4,379	(-17.1)	(-68.3)	+35.1
Michigan......................	5,562	3,662	1,900	4,115	2,074	2,041	(-26.0)	(-43.4)	+7.4
Wisconsin.....................	2,754	1,605	1,149	1,984	1,123	861	(-28.0)	(-30.0)	(-25.1)
West North Central.......	12,653	7,800	4,853	9,229	5,896	3,333	(-27.1)	(-24.4)	(-31.3)
Minnesota....................	2,905	1,448	1,457	2,100	1,500	600	(-27.7)	+3.6	(-58.8)
Iowa..........................	1,787	1,154	633	1,504	783	721	(-15.8)	(-32.1)	+13.9
Missouri.....................	3,084	2,083	1,001	2,660	1,755	905	(-13.7)	(-15.7)	(-9.6)
North Dakota.................	535	370	165	484	311	173	(-9.5)	(-15.9)	+4.8
South Dakota.................	526	263	263	482	247	235	(-8.4)	(-6.1)	(-10.6)
Nebraska......................	1,318	802	516	1,009	801	208	(-23.4)	(-0.1)	(-59.7)
Kansas........................	2,498	1,680	818	990	499	491	(-60.4)	(-70.3)	(-40.0)
South Atlantic...........	24,583	17,531	7,052	21,033	12,515	8,518	(-14.4)	(-28.6)	+20.8
Delaware......................	249	139	110	186	88	98	(-25.3)	(-36.7)	(-10.9)
Maryland......................	1,529	811	718	1,400	647	753	(-8.4)	(-20.2)	+4.9
District of Columbia.........	717	535	182	326	164	162	(-54.5)	(-69.3)	(-11.0)
Virginia......................	3,037	2,140	897	2,348	1,541	807	(-22.7)	(-28.0)	(-10.0)
West Virginia................	1,932	1,374	558	1,254	982	272	(-35.1)	(-28.5)	(-51.3)
North Carolina...............	3,547	2,523	1,024	3,535	2,515	1,020	(-0.3)	(-0.3)	(-0.4)
South Carolina...............	1,863	1,242	621	1,569	930	639	(-15.8)	(-25.1)	+2.9
Georgia.......................	3,344	2,302	1,042	2,732	1,776	956	(-18.3)	(-22.8)	(-8.3)
Florida.......................	8,365	6,465	1,900	7,683	3,872	3,811	(-8.2)	(-40.1)	+100.6
East South Central.......	8,485	5,923	2,562	7,046	4,532	2,514	(-17.0)	(-23.5)	(-1.9)
Kentucky.....................	1,270	775	495	1,040	646	394	(-18.1)	(-16.6)	(-20.4)
Tennessee....................	2,777	1,844	933	2,058	1,249	809	(-25.9)	(-32.3)	(-13.3)
Alabama......................	2,744	2,058	686	2,480	1,897	583	(-9.6)	(-7.8)	(-15.0)
Mississippi..................	1,694	1,246	448	1,468	740	728	(-13.3)	(-40.6)	+62.5

See notes at end of table.

Table 6. Percentage change in total related and unrelated domestic adoptions by State and Division: United States, 1982 and 1986 National Committee For Adoption Surveys--Continued

Geographic division and State	1982			1986			Percent increase + (or decrease -) in number, 1982 to 1986		
	Total domestic adoptions	Related domestic adoptions	Unrelated domestic adoptions	Total domestic adoptions	Related domestic adoptions	Unrelated domestic adoptions	Total domestic adoptions	Related domestic adoptions	Unrelated domestic adoptions
West South Central.......	18,972	11,667	7,305	14,572	7,639	6,933	(-23.2)	(-34.5)	(-5.1)
Arkansas......................	1,495	959	536	1,541	777	764	+3.1	(-19.0)	+42.5
Louisiana....................	2,506	1,718	788	1,683	1,188	495	(-32.8)	(-30.8)	(-37.2)
Oklahoma.....................	2,795	1,990	805	2,350	1,175	1,175	(-15.9)	(-41.0)	+46.0
Texas.........................	12,176	7,000	5,176	8,998	4,499	4,499	(-26.1)	(-35.7)	(-13.1)
Mountain.................	9,561	6,266	3,295	7,220	3,554	3,666	(-24.5)	(-43.3)	+11.3
Montana......................	714	431	283	652	329	323	(-8.7)	(-23.7)	+14.1
Idaho.........................	573	235	338	330	53	277	(-42.4)	(-77.4)	(-18.0)
Wyoming......................	252	169	83	232	117	115	(-7.9)	(-30.8)	+38.6
Colorado.....................	2,830	1,928	902	2,036	1,267	769	(-28.1)	(-34.3)	(-14.7)
New Mexico...................	2,312	1,940	372	979	177	802	(-57.7)	(-90.9)	+115.6
Arizona......................	1,027	568	459	1,303	657	646	+26.9	+15.7	+40.7
Utah..........................	1,222	567	655	1,261	782	479	+3.2	+37.9	(-26.9)
Nevada.......................	631	428	203	427	172	255	(-32.3)	(-59.8)	+25.6
Pacific..................	15,194	8,424	6,770	9,301	2,901	6,400	(-38.8)	(-65.6)	(-5.5)
Washington...................	2,356	1,283	1,073	2,133	1,169	964	(-9.5)	(-8.9)	(-10.2)
Oregon.......................	1,042	135	907	1,161	125	1,036	+11.4	(-7.4)	+14.2
California...................	10,500	6,117	4,383	5,069	1,093	3,976	(-51.7)	(-82.1)	(-9.3)
Alaska.......................	693	466	227	662	322	340	(-4.5)	(-30.9)	+49.8
Hawaii.......................	603	423	180	276	192	84	(-54.2)	(-54.6)	(-53.3)

NOTES: For 1986, see note and sources on table 1. For 1982 NCFA survey description, see National Committee For Adoption: Adoption Factbook. Washington, D.C. Nov. 1985.

Table 7. Special needs adoptions as a percentage of unrelated domestic adoptions and percent change for each State, Division, and the United States: 1982 and 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey

Geographic division and State	Percentage		Percent increase + (or decrease -), in the percentage 1982 to 1986
	1982	1986	
United States	27.6	26.5	(-4.0)
New England	31.5	24.1	(-23.5)
Maine	9.2	9.2	0.0
New Hampshire	27.8	30.1	+8.3
Vermont	16.3	26.9	+65.0
Massachusetts	41.9	26.5	(-36.8)
Rhode Island	39.1	26.7	(-31.7)
Connecticut	30.1	22.7	(-24.6)
Middle Atlantic	28.1	24.2	(-13.9)
New York	35.0	25.7	(-26.6)
New Jersey	14.7	17.0	+15.6
Pennsylvania	27.6	26.5	(-4.0)
East North Central	23.2	27.9	+20.3
Ohio	27.6	26.5	(-4.0)
Indiana	6.4	32.7	+410.9
Illinois	20.0	26.5	+32.5
Michigan	30.1	26.5	(-12.0)
Wisconsin	27.8	33.1	+19.1
West North Central	21.2	26.2	+23.6
Minnesota	9.1	35.8	+293.4
Iowa	27.6	13.9	(-49.6)
Missouri	27.6	29.0	+5.1
North Dakota	41.2	37.0	(-10.2)
South Dakota	11.4	20.9	+83.3
Nebraska	26.2	25.5	+2.7
Kansas	25.7	26.5	+3.1
South Atlantic	39.7	26.9	(-32.2)
Delaware	34.5	0.0	(-100.0)
Maryland	96.4	26.6	(-72.4)
District of Columbia	29.1	26.5	(-8.9)
Virginia	27.6	27.6	0.0
West Virginia	27.6	44.1	+59.8
North Carolina	27.6	26.5	(-4.0)
South Carolina	35.4	26.4	(-25.4)
Georgia	27.6	26.9	(-2.5)
Florida	43.4	26.5	(-38.9)
East South Central	32.2	26.9	(-16.5)
Kentucky	70.7	42.9	(-39.3)
Tennessee	26.2	26.5	+1.1
Alabama	17.6	17.2	(-2.3)
Mississippi	24.8	26.5	+6.9

See note at end of table.

Table 7. Special needs adoptions as a percentage of unrelated domestic adoptions and percent change for each State, Division, and the United States: 1982 and 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey--Continued

Geographic division and State	Percentage		Percent increase + (or decrease -), in the percentage 1982 to 1986
	1982	1986	
West South Central.......	17.5	18.6	+6.3
Arkansas......................	26.1	26.4	+1.1
Louisiana.....................	55.8	56.2	+0.7
Oklahoma......................	24.8	26.5	+6.9
Texas.........................	9.7	11.1	+14.4
Mountain.................	18.8	21.7	+15.4
Montana.......................	27.6	26.6	(-3.6)
Idaho.........................	13.9	26.4	+89.9
Wyoming.......................	27.7	26.1	(-5.8)
Colorado......................	27.7	32.5	+17.3
New Mexico....................	22.3	0.9	(-96.0)
Arizona.......................	2.6	26.5	+919.2
Utah..........................	3.5	26.5	+657.1
Nevada........................	50.7	20.0	(-60.6)
Pacific..................	37.3	38.6	+3.5
Washington....................	57.6	25.9	(-55.0)
Oregon........................	27.6	29.0	+5.1
California....................	35.2	45.5	+29.3
Alaska........................	27.8	26.5	(-4.7)
Hawaii........................	27.8	26.2	(-5.8)

NOTES: See note and sources on table 1. For 1986, see note and sources on table 1. For 1982 NCFA survey description, see National Committee For Adoption: Adoption Factbook. Washington, D.C. Nov. 1985.

Table 8. State ranking of numbers of unrelated domestic adoptions, infant adoptions, special needs adoptions, and foreign adoptions based on the top 10 States: 1986 National Committee for Adoption Survey

State rank 1 = highest number	Unrelated domestic adoptions	Domestic infant adoptions	Domestic special needs adoptions	Foreign adoptions
1	Texas	Illinois	California	New York
2	Illinois	Texas	Illinois	Minnesota
3	California	California	Florida	California
4	Florida	Florida	New York	Michigan
5	New York	New York	Michigan	New Jersey
6	Michigan	Michigan	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania
7	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Texas	Washington
8	Ohio	Ohio	Indiana	Illinois
9	Indiana	Oregon	Ohio	Massachusetts
10	New Jersey	Washington	Oklahoma	Wisconsin

SOURCES: All data from the National Committee For Adoption's 1986 adoption survey, except that foreign adoptions data were ordered by NCFA from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. calendar year 1986.

Table 9. Number of domestic infant adoptions, abortions, live births, and nonmarital live births, and ratios, for each State, Division and the United States: 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey, 1986 live births, and 1985 abortions (Ratio per 1,000)

Geographic division and State	Number				Ratios			
	Domestic infant adoptions	Abortions	Live births	Nonmarital live births	Infant adoptions per 1,000 abortions	Infant adoptions per 1,000 live births	Infant adoptions per 1,000 nonmarital live births	Abortions per 1,000 live births
United States.........	24,589	1,588,550	3,756,547	878,477	15.5	6.5	28.0	422.9
New England.............	1,184	85,350	181,227	33,764	13.9	6.5	35.1	471.0
Maine.......................	56	4,960	16,709	3,171	11.3	3.4	17.7	296.8
New Hampshire...............	49	7,030	15,895	2,213	7.0	3.1	22.1	442.3
Vermont.....................	97	3,430	8,139	1,359	28.3	11.9	71.4	421.4
Massachusetts...............	560	40,310	82,190	15,861	13.9	6.8	35.3	490.4
Rhode Island................	115	7,770	13,444	2,656	14.8	8.6	43.3	578.0
Connecticut.................	307	21,850	44,850	8,504	14.1	6.8	36.1	487.2
Middle Atlantic.........	2,851	321,680	533,809	141,720	8.9	5.3	20.1	602.6
New York....................	1,732	195,120	264,027	77,535	8.9	6.6	22.3	739.0
New Jersey..................	134	69,190	108,812	24,887	1.9	1.2	5.4	635.9
Pennsylvania................	985	57,370	160,970	39,298	17.2	6.1	25.1	356.4
East North Central......	5,079	220,630	624,029	142,221	23.0	8.1	35.7	353.6
Ohio........................	759	57,360	158,026	36,917	13.2	4.8	20.6	363.0
Indiana.....................	275	16,090	79,322	16,657	17.1	3.5	16.5	202.8
Illinois....................	2,564	64,960	176,717	47,843	39.5	14.5	53.6	367.6
Michigan....................	988	64,390	137,631	26,620	15.3	7.2	37.1	467.8
Wisconsin...................	493	17,830	72,333	14,184	27.7	6.8	34.8	246.5
West North Central......	1,411	68,210	265,939	47,253	20.7	5.3	29.9	256.5
Minnesota...................	260	16,850	65,784	10,721	15.4	4.0	24.3	256.1
Iowa........................	148	9,930	38,771	5,825	14.9	3.8	25.4	256.1
Missouri....................	438	20,100	75,259	16,917	21.8	5.8	25.9	267.1
North Dakota................	49	2,850	10,819	1,398	17.2	4.5	35.1	263.4
South Dakota................	114	1,650	11,615	2,036	69.1	9.8	56.0	142.1
Nebraska....................	164	6,680	24,426	3,788	24.6	43.3	6.7	273.5
Kansas......................	238	10,150	39,265	6,568	23.4	36.2	6.1	258.5
South Atlantic..........	4,235	257,120	607,558	160,827	16.5	7.0	26.3	423.2
Delaware....................	25	4,590	9,718	2,621	5.4	2.6	9.5	472.3
Maryland....................	364	29,480	69,538	21,198	12.3	5.2	17.2	423.9
District of Columbia........	78	23,910	10,045	5,800	3.3	7.8	13.4	2,380.3
Virginia....................	120	34,180	87,183	19,538	3.5	1.4	6.1	392.0
West Virginia...............	135	4,590	23,236	4,530	29.4	5.8	29.8	197.5
North Carolina..............	494	34,180	90,254	21,323	14.5	5.5	23.2	378.7
South Carolina..............	532	11,200	51,800	14,304	47.5	10.3	37.2	216.2
Georgia.....................	642	38,340	98,183	26,701	16.7	6.5	24.0	390.5
Florida.....................	1,845	76,650	167,601	44,812	24.1	11.0	41.2	457.3
East South Central......	1,307	57,440	219,379	56,735	22.8	6.0	23.0	261.8
Kentucky....................	279	9,820	51,794	10,355	28.4	5.4	26.9	189.6
Tennessee...................	392	22,350	66,249	16,767	17.5	5.9	23.4	337.4
Alabama.....................	284	19,380	59,465	15,385	14.7	4.8	18.5	325.9
Mississippi.................	352	5,890	41,871	14,228	59.8	8.4	24.7	140.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 9. Number of domestic infant adoptions, abortions, live births, and nonmarital live births, and ratios, for each State, Division and the United States: 1986 National Committee For Adoption Survey, 1986 live births, and 1985 abortions--Continued (Ratio per 1,000)

Geographic division and State	Number				Ratios			
	Domestic infant adoptions	Abortions	Live births	Nonmarital live births	Infant adoptions per 1,000 abortions	Infant adoptions per 1,000 live births	Infant adoptions per 1,000 nonmarital live births	Abortions per 1,000 live births
West South Central......	3,291	138,580	470,054	95,476	23.7	7.0	34.5	294.8
Arkansas.....................	370	5,420	34,393	8,246	68.3	10.8	44.9	157.6
Louisiana....................	174	19,240	77,955	23,564	9.0	2.2	7.4	246.8
Oklahoma.....................	569	13,100	50,640	9,426	43.4	11.2	60.4	258.7
Texas........................	2,178	100,820	307,066	54,240	21.6	7.1	40.2	328.3
Mountain.................	1,607	74,580	233,541	44,779	21.5	6.9	35.9	319.3
Montana......................	156	3,710	12,734	2,262	42.0	12.3	69.0	291.3
Idaho........................	163	2,660	16,448	1,949	61.3	9.9	83.6	161.7
Wyoming......................	56	1,070	8,633	1,202	52.3	6.5	46.6	123.9
Colorado.....................	326	24,350	55,151	9,927	13.4	5.9	32.8	441.5
New Mexico...................	97	6,110	27,392	7,629	15.9	3.5	12.7	223.1
Arizona......................	313	22,330	60,874	15,598	14.0	5.1	20.1	366.8
Utah.........................	416	4,440	36,412	3,575	93.7	11.4	116.4	121.9
Nevada.......................	80	9,910	15,897	2,637	8.1	5.0	30.3	623.4
Pacific..................	3,624	364,960	621,011	155,702	9.9	5.8	23.3	587.7
Washington...................	620	30,990	69,440	13,745	20.0	8.9	45.1	446.3
Oregon.......................	697	15,230	38,871	8,025	45.8	17.9	86.9	391.8
California...................	2,070	304,130	482,236	127,683	6.8	4.3	16.2	630.7
Alaska.......................	162	3,450	12,167	2,531	47.0	13.3	64.0	283.6
Hawaii.......................	75	11,160	18,297	3,718	6.7	4.1	20.2	609.9

SOURCES: Adoptions for 1986 from NCFA survey; see note and sources on table 1. 1986 live births and nonmarital live births from National Center for Health Statistics: "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1986" Monthly Vital Statistics Report. Vol. 37, No. 3, Supplement, July 12, 1988. 1985 abortion data from Stanley K. Henshaw and Jennifer Van Vort, "Abortion Services in the United States, Each State and Metropolitan Area, 1984-1985", the Alan Guttmacher Institute, New York, 1988. 1985 abortion data were used because 1986 data were not available at this printing.

Table 10. State rankings using "Adoption Option Index"^{TM} from the National Committee For Adoption

Rank	Adoption Option Index		Rank	Adoption Option Index	
1	51.9	Utah	27	10.1	Connecticut
2	35.4	Idaho	28	10.0	Tennessee
3	30.9	South Dakota	29	10.0	Massachusetts
4	30.0	Oregon	30	9.9	Georgia
5	27.1	Alaska	31	9.5	Colorado
6	27.1	Arkansas	32	9.4	Minnesota
7	26.1	Montana	33	9.4	Iowa
8	25.3	Oklahoma	34	8.9	North Carolina
9	24.6	Wyoming	35	8.4	Indiana
10	22.7	Illinois	36	8.3	Arizona
11	20.9	South Carolina	37	8.2	Alabama
12	20.3	Vermont	38	8.1	Ohio
13	17.5	Mississippi	39	7.2	Maryland
14	15.7	Nebraska	40	7.1	New Mexico
15	15.4	Wisconsin	41	6.9	Maine
16	15.2	Florida	42	6.4	Nevada
17	14.8	West Virginia	43	6.4	New York
18	14.2	Kansas	44	5.3	New Hampshire
19	14.0	Texas	45	5.0	Hawaii
20	13.9	Washington	46	4.8	California
21	13.8	Kentucky	47	4.1	Louisiana
22	11.8	Missouri	48	3.5	Delaware
23	11.5	North Dakota	49	2.6	District of Columbia
24	11.0	Rhode Island	50	2.2	Virginia
25	10.9	Michigan	51	1.4	New Jersey
26	10.2	Pennsylvania		10.0	United States

Note: NCFA's "Adoption Option Index"^{TM} is a standardized ratio calculated by dividing the number of domestic infant adoptions by the sum of abortions and births to unmarried women, x 1,000. Ties in ranks were broken by carrying the index to three decimals.

Table 11. National estimates of related and unrelated adoptions: United States, 1951 to 1986

Year	Total adoptions	Unrelated adoptions	Related adoptions	Percentage unrelated adoptions	Percentage related adoptions
1951	72,000*	33,800*	38,200*	47	53
1955	93,000	48,400*	44,600*	52	48
1957	91,000	48,200	42,800	53	47
1958	96,000	50,900	45,100	50	50
1959	102,000	54,100	47,900	53	47
1960	107,000	57,800	49,200	54	46
1961	114,000	61,600	52,400	54	46
1962	121,000	62,900	58,100	52	48
1963	127,000	67,300	59,700	53	47
1964	135,000	71,600	63,400	53	47
1965	142,000	76,700	65,300	54	46
1966	152,000	80,600	71,400	53	47
1967	158,000	83,700	74,300	53	47
1968	166,000	86,300	79,700	52	48
1969	171,000	88,900	82,100	52	48
1970	175,000	89,200	85,800	51	49
1971	169,000	82,800	86,200	49	50
1972	148,701	65,335	83,366	44	56
1973	148,000*	59,200*	88,800*	40	60
1974	138,000*	49,700*	88,300*	36	64
1975	129,000*	47,700*	81,300*	37	63
1982	141,861	50,720	91,141	36	64
1986	104,088	51,157	52,931	49	51

---

[*] Indicates estimates developed by Penelope Maza ("Adoption Trends: 1944-1975", Child Welfare Research: Notes #9, August 1984, Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, Washington, D.C.). All other 1955-1971 estimates are as originally published, with appropriate references cited by Maza (1984). The terms "unrelated petitioners" and "related petitioners" were used 1951 through 1982; "unrelated and related adoptions" are used in 1986. 1972 data were adapted from Hoeppner (1977) by the National Committee For Adoption as specified in table 6 of NCFA's 1985 Adoption Factbook. 1982 and 1986 data represent domestic adoption information and were collected by the National Committee For Adoption. See Chapter 18 for discussion of reduced number of related adoptions in 1986.

Table 12. National estimates of unrelated adoptions and type of agency making adoptive placement: United States, 1951 to 1986

Year	Total unrelated adoptions	Public agency	Private agency	Independent	Percentage public agency	Percentage private agency	Percentage independent
1951	33,800*	6,100*	9,800*	17,900*	18	29	53
1955	48,400*	9,700*	14,000*	24,700*	20	29	51
1957	48,200	10,600*	14,500*	23,100*	22	30	48
1958	50,900	10,200*	16,800*	23,900*	20	33	47
1959	54,100	11,400*	16,800*	25,900*	21	31	48
1960	57,800	13,300	20,800	23,700	23	36	41
1961	61,600	15,400	22,200	24,000	25	36	39
1962	62,900	14,500	25,800	22,600	23	41	36
1963	67,300	17,500	26,900	22,900	26	40	34
1964	71,600	18,600	29,400	23,600	26	41	33
1965	76,700	20,700	32,200	23,800	27	42	31
1966	80,600	23,400	33,800	23,400	29	42	29
1967	83,700	25,100	36,800	21,800	30	44	26
1968	86,300	26,800	37,100	22,400	31	43	26
1969	88,900	28,400	38,300	22,200	32	43	25
1970	89,200	29,500	40,100	19,600	33	45	22
1971	82,800	29,800	35,600	17,400	36	43	21
1972	65,335	24,853	26,794	13,688	38	41	21
1973	59,200*	22,500*	23,700*	13,000*	38	40	22
1974	49,700*	19,400*	17,900*	12,400*	39	36	25
1975	47,700*	18,600*	18,100*	11,000*	39	38	23
1982	50,720	19,428	14,549	16,743	38	29	33
1986	51,157	20,064	15,063	16,040	39	29	31

*Indicates estimates published by Maza (see table 11 footnote). All other 1955-1971 estimates are as originally published, with appropriate references cited by Maza. 1972 data were adapted from Hoeppner (1977) by the National Committee For Adoption as specified in table 6 of NCFA's 1985 Adoption Factbook. 1982 and 1986 data represent domestic adoption information and were collected by the National Committee For Adoption. Percentages may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Table 13. Immigrant orphans (foreign adoptees) admitted to the United States by country or region of birth, fiscal years 1985-1987

Country or region of birth	1985	1986	1987
All countries	9,286	9,945	10,097
Europe	91	103	122
Austria	0	0	0
Belgium	1	0	0
Bulgaria	0	0	0
Czechoslovakia	0	0	0
Denmark	0	0	3
Finland	0	0	0
France	1	2	2
Germany, West	10	5	2
Germany, East	0	0	0
Greece	8	16	7
Hungary	0	1	3
Iceland	3	2	0
Ireland	0	0	2
Italy	0	3	0
Malta	0	0	1
Netherlands	0	0	1
Poland	29	32	54
Portugal	19	19	24
Romania	3	2	6
Spain	2	2	5
Sweden	0	0	0
Switzerland	0	2	1
U.S.S.R.	0	0	0
United Kingdom	12	7	6
Yugoslavia	3	10	5
Asia	6,991	7,679	7,614
Afghanistan	0	1	0
Bahrain	0	0	0
Bangladesh	9	3	11
Bhutan	0	0	0
Burma	0	0	3
China (Total)	139	140	137
Mainland	16	10	15
Taiwan	72	90	66
Hong Kong	51	40	55
Cyprus	0	0	0
India	496	588	807
Indonesia	0	0	2
Iran	1	3	1
Iraq	0	0	0
Israel	8	1	1
Japan	57	46	64
Jordan	7	1	2
Kampuchea	0	0	0
Korea	5,694	6,188	5,910
Kuwait	0	0	0
Laos	0	0	0
Lebanon	20	19	21
Macau	4	0	0
Malaysia	1	0	1
Nepal	2	3	4
Pakistan	8	12	9
Philippines	515	634	593
Singapore	0	0	0
Sri Lanka	1	1	3
Syria	0	1	0
Thailand	28	27	31
Turkey	1	11	13
Vietnam	0	0	1
Yemen (Aden)	0	0	0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 13. Immigrant orphans (foreign adoptees) admitted to the United States by country or region of birth, fiscal years 1985-1987--Continued

Country or region of birth	1985	1986	1987
Africa	11	22	22
Angola	0	0	0
Algeria	0	1	0
Botswana	0	0	0
Burundi	0	0	0
Cape Verde	0	1	0
Chad	0	1	0
Egypt	3	0	3
Ethiopia	3	3	7
Ghana	0	1	0
Kenya	0	0	0
Liberia	1	1	1
Madagascar	0	2	1
Malawi	0	2	0
Mauritius	0	0	0
Morocco	1	3	2
Nigeria	1	1	1
Senegal	0	0	0
Seychelles	0	0	0
Sierra Leone	0	0	1
Somalia	0	1	0
South Africa	0	0	1
Sudan	1	0	1
Swaziland	0	3	1
Tanzania	0	0	0
Togo	0	0	1
Tunisia	0	0	0
Uganda	0	1	1
Zaire	0	0	1
Zimbabwe	1	1	0
Oceania	9	21	3
Australia	0	0	0
Fiji	0	4	3
French Polynesia	0	0	0
New Zealand	0	1	0
Pacific Island, Trust Territory	1	12	0
Tonga	4	1	0
Western Samoa	4	3	0
North America	1,012	885	973
Canada	11	13	17
Mexico	137	143	178
United States	0	1	0
Caribbean	118	102	124
Antigua-Barbuda	1	0	0
Bahamas, The	1	5	2
Barbados	0	0	0
Bermuda	0	0	0
Cayman Islands	0	3	0
Cuba	0	1	0
Dominica	2	0	1
Dominican Republic	47	31	52
Grenada	2	2	0
Guadeloupe	1	0	0
Haiti	12	19	25
Jamaica	47	38	37
Montserrat	1	0	0
Netherlands Antilles	0	0	0
St. Christ-Nevis	0	0	0
St. Lucia	0	0	2
St. Vincent and Grenad	3	2	4
Trinidad and Tobago	1	1	1
Turks and Caicos Islands	0	0	0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 13. Immigrant orphans (foreign adoptees) admitted to the United States by country or region of birth, fiscal years 1985-1987--Continued

Country or region of birth	1985	1986	1987
Central America	746	626	654
Belize	4	5	12
Costa Rica	59	72	72
El Salvador	310	147	135
Guatemala	175	228	291
Honduras	181	135	114
Nicaragua	0	14	5
Panama	17	25	25
South America	1,172	1,235	1,363
Argentina	7	7	6
Bolivia	14	25	25
Brazil	242	193	148
Chile	206	317	238
Colombia	622	550	724
Ecuador	25	25	31
French Guiana	0	0	0
Guyana	3	11	3
Paraguay	15	32	90
Peru	34	71	84
Suriname	1	0	1
Uruguay	2	0	6
Venezuela	1	4	7

SOURCE: The fiscal year 1985-1987 data in this table were recompiled by the National Committee For Adoption (NCFA) based on data from the Statistical Analysis Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Table 14. Number of foreign adoptions, percent distribution, and 1985-1987 percentage change for each State, Division, and the United States

Geographic division and State	1985		1986		1987		Percent increase + (or decrease -) 1985 to 1987
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
United States..........	9,261	100.0	9,909	100.0	10,068	100.0	+8.7
New England.............	689	7.3	726	7.4	872	8.6	+26.6
Maine......................	40	0.4	55	0.6	68	0.7	+70.0
New Hampshire...............	45	0.5	47	0.5	56	0.6	+24.4
Vermont.....................	48	0.5	53	0.5	49	0.5	+2.1
Massachusetts...............	320	3.4	356	3.6	388	3.8	+21.3
Rhode Island................	29	0.3	19	0.2	15	0.1	(-48.3)
Connecticut.................	207	2.2	196	2.0	296	2.9	+43.0
Middle Atlantic..........	2,048	22.2	2,067	20.9	2,147	21.4	+4.8
New York....................	1,017	11.1	1,052	10.7	1,080	10.8	+6.2
New Jersey..................	516	5.6	515	5.2	547	5.4	+6.0
Pennsylvania................	515	5.5	500	5.0	520	5.2	+1.0
East North Central.......	1,450	15.6	1,724	17.5	1,863	18.5	+28.5
Ohio........................	217	2.3	234	2.4	253	2.5	+16.6
Indiana.....................	99	1.1	91	0.9	97	1.0	(-2.0)
Illinois....................	308	3.3	396	4.0	428	4.2	+39.0
Michigan....................	529	5.7	626	6.4	779	7.8	+47.3
Wisconsin...................	297	3.2	377	3.8	306	3.0	+3.0
West North Central.......	1,292	14.0	1,453	14.8	1,290	12.9	(-0.2)
Minnesota...................	712	7.8	762	7.8	724	7.2	+1.7
Iowa........................	277	3.0	315	3.2	250	2.5	(-9.7)
Missouri....................	100	1.1	157	1.6	123	1.2	+23.0
North Dakota................	40	0.4	37	0.4	24	0.2	(-40.0)
South Dakota................	28	0.3	42	0.4	37	0.4	+32.1
Nebraska....................	86	0.9	87	0.9	86	0.9	0.0
Kansas......................	49	0.5	53	0.5	46	0.5	(-6.1)
South Atlantic...........	979	10.6	916	9.1	1,052	10.2	+7.5
Delaware....................	21	0.2	33	0.3	51	0.5	+142.9
Maryland....................	306	3.3	330	3.3	306	3.0	0.0
District of Columbia.........	30	0.3	14	0.1	32	0.3	+6.7
Virginia....................	230	2.5	199	2.0	237	2.3	+3.0
West Virginia...............	34	0.4	48	0.5	44	0.4	+29.4
North Carolina..............	43	0.5	54	0.5	64	0.6	+48.8
South Carolina..............	37	0.4	26	0.3	31	0.3	(-16.2)
Georgia.....................	100	1.1	82	0.8	125	1.2	+25.0
Florida.....................	178	1.9	130	1.3	162	1.6	(-9.0)
East South Central.......	241	2.6	260	2.6	273	2.7	+13.3
Kentucky....................	57	0.6	76	0.8	99	1.0	+73.7
Tennessee...................	81	0.9	88	0.9	100	1.0	+23.5
Alabama.....................	65	0.7	62	0.6	34	0.3	(-47.7)
Mississippi.................	38	0.4	34	0.3	40	0.4	+5.3

See notes at end of table.

Table 14. Number of foreign adoptions, percent distribution, and 1985-1987 percentage change for each State, Division, and the United States--Continued

Geographic division and State	1985		1986		1987		Percent increase + (or decrease -) 1985 to 1987
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
West South Central.......	343	3.6	389	3.9	348	3.5	+1.5
Arkansas.....................	21	0.2	27	0.3	28	0.3	+33.3
Louisiana....................	49	0.5	58	0.6	38	0.4	+22.4
Oklahoma.....................	65	0.7	72	0.7	80	0.8	+23.1
Texas........................	208	2.2	232	2.3	202	2.0	+2.9
Mountain.................	639	7.0	696	7.0	634	6.2	(-0.8)
Montana......................	48	0.5	67	0.7	83	0.8	+72.9
Idaho........................	52	0.6	63	0.6	44	0.4	(-15.4)
Wyoming......................	15	0.2	15	0.2	17	0.2	+13.3
Colorado.....................	266	2.9	280	2.8	218	2.2	(-18.1)
New Mexico...................	56	0.6	56	0.6	52	0.5	(-7.1)
Arizona......................	84	0.9	83	0.8	89	0.9	+6.0
Utah.........................	102	1.1	120	1.2	116	1.1	+13.7
Nevada.......................	16	0.2	12	0.1	15	0.1	(-6.3)
Pacific..................	1,580	17.1	1,678	17.0	1,589	15.7	+0.6
Washington...................	442	4.8	447	4.5	429	4.2	(-2.9)
Oregon.......................	251	2.7	262	2.6	264	2.6	+5.2
California...................	639	7.0	744	7.6	700	7.0	+9.5
Alaska.......................	58	0.6	75	0.8	74	0.7	+27.6
Hawaii.......................	190	2.0	150	1.5	122	1.2	(-35.8)

NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100.0 due to rounding. Data are for fiscal years. Excluded from the totals are adoptees to Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands (7, 16, and 2 respectively in 1985; 6, 27, and 3 respectively in 1986; and 7, 21, and 1 respectively in 1987).

SOURCE: These data are based on special tabulations purchased from the Statistical Analysis Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) by the National Committee For Adoption.

Table 15. Number and percent of foreign adoptions in the U.S. according to sex, age, and major countries of origin: Fiscal years 1985, 1986, and 1987

Selected characteristics	1985		1986		1987	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	9,286	100.0	9,945	100.0	10,097	100.0
Sex						
Male	4,018	43.3	4,344	43.7	4,460	44.2
Female	5,268	56.7	5,601	56.3	5,637	55.8
Age						
Under 1 year	5,657	60.9	6,364	64.0	6,450	63.9
1-4 years	2,262	24.4	2,111	21.2	2,180	21.6
5-9 years	866	9.3	933	9.4	963	9.5
10 years or over	501	5.4	537	5.4	504	5.0
Major countries of origin ranked						
Korea	5,694	61.3	6,188	62.2	5,910	58.5
India	496	5.3	588	5.9	807	8.0
Colombia	622	6.7	550	5.5	724	7.2
Philippines	515	5.5	634	6.4	593	5.9
Guatemala	175	1.9	228	2.3	291	2.9
Chile	206	2.2	317	3.2	238	2.4
Mexico	137	1.5	143	1.4	178	1.8
Brazil	242	2.6	193	1.9	148	1.5
El Salvador	310	3.3	147	1.5	135	1.3
Honduras	181	1.9	135	1.4	114	1.1
All others	708	7.6	822	8.3	959	9.5
Major States of destination ranked						
New York	1,017	11.1	1,052	10.7	1,080	10.8
Michigan	529	5.7	626	6.4	779	7.8
Minnesota	712	7.8	762	7.8	724	7.2
California	639	7.0	744	7.6	700	7.0
New Jersey	516	5.6	515	5.2	547	5.4
Pennsylvania	515	5.5	500	5.0	520	5.2
Washington	442	4.8	447	4.5	429	4.2
Illinois	308	3.3	396	4.0	428	4.2
Massachusetts	320	3.4	356	3.6	388	3.8
Wisconsin	297	3.2	377	3.8	306	3.0
All others	4,242	42.6	4,723	41.4	4,821	41.4

NOTES: Total may not add to 100.0 due to rounding. Rankings are from highest to lowest based on 1987 data.

SOURCE: Compiled from data purchased by the National Committee For Adoption from the Statistical Analysis Branch. U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

PART IV. ISSUES IN ADOPTION

Current Issues

The following chapters examine the most salient issues being discussed in the adoption field today. These issues include adoption searches, "openness" in the adoption circle, surrogate parenting, advertising for babies, transracial adoptions, adoption of AIDS babies, wrongful adoption, post-legal adoptive services for the adoption circle, and important legal decisions affecting adoption:

29. Birthparents and Adoptees Who Seek Each Other

The needs or desires of one member of the adoption circle--be they birth parent, adopted person, or adoptive parent--to locate and meet another member of the adoption circle, must be balanced by the very real privacy rights of all members of the adoption circle. The confidentiality of adoption records is addressed in questions 8 and 9, "Summary of State Adoption Regulations Based on National Committee For Adoption Survey" (Part II, Chapter 7 of 1989 Adoption Factbook).

Confidential, sealed records ensure privacy for birth parents, adopted persons, and adoptive parents. For the minority of birth parents and adopted persons who wish to meet, confidential, sealed records may prove a hindrance. However, an appropriate mechanism to facilitate such meetings is the voluntary mutual consent adoption registry, which exists alongside sealed records. Valid reasons for confidential records include:

a) allowing adoptive families the uninterrupted opportunity to bond themselves to their adopted child;

b) preserving the birth parents' privacy;

c) protecting the adopted child from potentially disturbing facts surrounding his birth;

d) buttressing the child's feeling of permanency; and

e) enhancing the adoptive family's stability.

Open records facilitate adopted children and biological parents finding each other, and those who support open records give these reasons:

a) adoptees have a right to find out their birth names and family histories to fill the void that separates them from their past;

b) adoptees may be at risk of medical problems or life-threatening diseases, and need family medical histories; and

c) adoptees may wish to have children, and are not sure of their genetic and medical backgrounds.

Three states now have open records, which means that adoptees are permitted to receive their original birth certificates containing the names of their biological parents. All states have laws by which critically needed medical information may be obtained through the courts.

Several organizations favor open records and help adopted persons and biological parents find each other. Adoptees' Liberty Movement Association was founded by Florence Anna Fisher in New York. Concerned United Birthparents (CUB) was founded by Lee Campbell, and is composed of biological parents. The Triadoption Library, one of the more active search groups, maintains a listing of all the search groups--there are some 400 in the U.S. and other countries. These and other search groups are listed in Chapter 79, "Search Groups".

In general, NCFA opposes open adoption records because the confidentiality guarantee can be the deciding factor in a woman's abortion or adoption decision. Regardless of people's religious or ethical convictions about abortion, if the only choice given women is between a confidential abortion or a non-confidential adoption, women will too often be compelled to choose confidential abortion. Confidential records give pregnant women greater freedom to choose adoption.

An Oregon court recently sided with the birth mother in suing her physician, who helped the woman she had placed with an adoptive family learn her identity. The physician was held liable for the emotional distress caused to the birth mother and guilty of breach of professional confidence. In 1959, the physician delivered a female baby; the mother consented to adoption, placement was completed, and records were sealed as confidential. In 1980, the adopted woman returned to the physician, who helped her learn the birth mother's identity. The birth mother maintained that as a result, she suffered severe emotional distress and brought action against the estate of the physician, who had since passed away. The court sided with the birth mother, maintaining that breaching the confidence of the birth parent is an actionable offense (Humphers v. First Interstate Bank, 696 P.2d 527, 1985).

Therefore, NCFA favors the registry concept, in which adopted children and biological parents (and sometimes, adoptive parents and/or biological siblings) independently register the fact that they want to have a meeting. If all parties agree, a meeting is arranged through a state social services agency or a licensed adoption agency. If either side refuses, the records remain confidential. Twenty-two states (Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Vermont) have passed laws setting up mutual consent adoption registries.

A number of other states (Connecticut, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Wisconsin) have enacted statutes known as "search and consent laws". These laws allow adopted persons to request the state social services agency or a licensed adoption agency to locate the biological parent(s) and, if they are found, to seek consent for releasing identifying information to the adopted person. No identifying information will be released without the consent of the biological parent(s).

NCFA called a number of states in 1988 to see how many individuals had attempted to search for their adopted children or birthparents. The results are as follows:

Alabama - is an open records state. In 1987, only 52 people requested their original birth certificate, even though it is readily available at a very nominal charge (Linda Smith, Alabama Office of Vital Statistics).

Michigan - Since 1980, about 5,500 birth parents and about 3,750 adopted persons have filed for search and consent (Richard Hoekstra, Department of Social Services). Given that searchers were 20-70 years of age, and that there are 2,000-3,000 unrelated adoptions there annually, NCFA estimates that there may be as many as 100,000 adoptees from Michigan. This indicates that less than four percent of adopted persons search, and even fewer birth parents.

New York - has a state registry, and about 3,500 unrelated domestic adoptions annually. NCFA estimates that there may be 100,000 adopted adults and 200,000 birth parents in the state. In the past four years, there have been 2,500 total registrants, indicating that less than one percent of adopted persons and birth parents are searching.

Louisiana - Since 1983, only 7 birth mothers and 36 adopted persons have registered with the state registry (Joel McClain, Louisiana Department of Social Services).

Pennsylvania - About 260 birth parents have filed a consent to release of identifying information, most since the law changed in 1984.

North Dakota - is a search and consent state. About 60 percent of the birth parents contacted consented to release of identifying information (Virginia Peterson, Department of Social Services).

Connecticut - Of 263 adopted adults who made inquiries of the Adoption Resource Exchange during the fiscal years 1984-86, 63 percent were initiated by females, and 97 percent were age 18-45. In those years, the Department of Children and Youth Services recommended 36 petitions to the court for identifying information, all of which were granted.

It is a fact that very few adopted persons search for their biological parents. Scotland has open records, but less than one percent of adopted people in Scotland over 17 years of age who ever searched requested and obtained identifying information in the years 1961-1970. In England and Wales, one-to-two percent of all adopted persons searched after the much-publicized change which opened adoption records. In Minnesota, only 1,150 persons entered their names on the new, much-publicized registry, of over 60,000 adopted persons in the State (but information is not available as to whether their search was successful). The Edna Gladney Home of Fort Worth, Texas, reports that "out of 14,000 adoptions, less than one percent have initiated any attempt to locate or identify their birth parents" (NCFA, *The Adoption Sourcebook*, 1982).

There is evidence that the one percent or so who are "searchers" are different than "non-searching" adopted adults. A 1981 M.S.S.W. Thesis by S.A.A. Aumend at the University of Texas at Austin entitled "Self-Concept, Attitudes Toward Adoptive Parents, and Revelation of Adoption in Searching and Non-Searching Adult Adoptees" showed that 49 *non-searchers* (when compared with 71 searchers):

- had more positive self-concepts, higher self-esteem, and more self-satisfaction,
- had more positive attitudes toward their adoptive mothers,
- had more positive feelings about adoption as they were growing up and in the effect of adoption on feelings about themselves as adults, and
- were less concerned about the lack of background information.

Similarly, Triseliotis (1973) interviewed 70 adopted adults who used the already-opened records in Scotland, compared them with adopted persons who did not search, and states:

> "Adoptees who have a positive self-image, who have experienced a happy home life and to whom information about their parentage and the circumstances of their adoption has been made available by the adoptive parents, and who have not experienced a recent intense crisis, are less likely to feel the need to seek reunions" (p. 229).

Stein and Hoopes (1985) found that "searchers" tended to have lower self-identity scores than the non-search group, but that they did not cluster at the extreme ends on measures of ego identity. Searchers tended to have less satisfactory family relationships, which were probably determined by poor styles of communication within the adoptive family. Openness in discussing adoption as a normal way of forming a family resulted in higher scores on measures of ego identity. Finally, these researchers found that adopted persons with non-adopted siblings don't search more frequently than those with adopted siblings, suggesting that identity formation is not affected by having adopted or non-adopted siblings.

NCFA does not intend to malign those few adopted persons who search or their families. There may be valid reasons for the search, and every individual's situation is different.

NCFA cannot settle this important issue with a few choice facts, but can only point to the conflict of interests between one person's interest in information and another's interest in privacy, and encourage great sensitivity in balancing these two needs.

30. Communication Between Birth and Adoptive Parents ("Openness")

Infant adoption practice today is marked by terms such as "openness", "open adoption", and "closed adoption". These terms are meant to depict specific practices and to describe the evolution of adoption practices, and have created confusion.

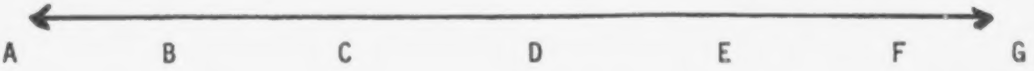
In the evolution of infant adoption practices, principals involved in adoption have tried to be more responsive to the needs of birth parents, adopted children, and adoptive parents. This evolution has taken many forms. Nonidentifying background information, as complete and comprehensive as possible, about the medical, genetic, and social histories of birthparents, as well as the circumstances surrounding the birthparents' decision to plan adoption for the child, are now routinely shared with adoptive parents. Birthparents are usually provided with nonidentifying information about the parents who will adopt their baby. Birthparents are often given an active role in making the adoption plan, including input into the type of family that will adopt their child. At many agencies, birthparents are given nonidentifying narratives describing would-be adoptive parents; the birthparents then choose the adoptive home for their baby. Practices at some agencies also include sharing of letters or photographs between birth and adoptive parents--sometimes for a limited time period, other times indefinitely--and face-to face meetings between birthparents and would-be adoptive parents on a first-name-only basis under agency staff supervision. And some agencies provide for the sharing of full identifying information between the parties and for ongoing visitation between the birth parents' families and the adoptive family.

This evolution is difficult to discuss precisely because all of the practices described above have variously been called "open adoption" or "openness" in adoption. There has been a semantic war with proponents of the new, experimental practices using the term "open" implying responsiveness, honesty, tolerance, acceptance, fairness, and the term "closed" implying hiding, secrecy, narrow-mindedness, punishment, restrictiveness, prejudice and unfairness. The terms "open" vs. "closed" are therefore misleading.

NCFA suggests the terms "traditional" or "confidential" adoption to replace what has been commonly termed "closed" adoption, in which birthparents are provided the opportunity to participate in the decisionmaking process, plan for the child, and share information while protecting confidentiality. The term "experimental" adoption is suggested for those "open" practices lacking the proven track record of "traditional" practices. These include the sharing of identifying information between the parties, meetings between birth parents and adoptive parents, and various agreements for ongoing contact between birthparents and adoptive parents.

OPENNESS IN ADOPTION CONTINUUM

Traditional, confidential adoption "closed adoption"	Experimental adoption "open adoption"



A - Complete anonymity between birth and adoptive parents

B - Knowledge of social and demographic circumstances but no knowledge of identities.

C - Birth parent involvement in selecting the types of acceptable adoptive parents.

D - Exchange of letters and photographs sometimes using first names only, mediated by the agency.

E - One time meeting, sometimes on a first name basis only, without identities known.

F - Knowledge of identities but no contact between birth and adoptive parents.

G - Ongoing contact between adoptive and birth parents.

A - C	F - G
Known to work well	Risks and benefits to birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoptees unknown.

Proponents of experimental adoption believe that traditional adoption causes emotional harm to birth parents and adopted children. They believe that greater contact between birth parents and adoptive parents more accurately reflects the realities of adoption. Adoptive parenting is not like biological parenting, they say, and the more that adoptive parents allow biological parents into the lives of their children, the better will be the outcome for all. The birth parents will not have to "forget" their children and will know how they are faring, the adopted children will not suffer "genealogical bewilderment" because they are not cut off from their biological roots, and the adoptive parents will have unrestricted access to the source of information that they or the child may seek as time goes by--the birth parents. They maintain that it is similar to the child whose parents divorce, the mother remarries, but the child continues contact with the biological father.

A four-part theoretical discussion of confidential and experimental adoption has addressed implications for the birth mother, the adoptive parents, the adopted child, and the social worker.

Part I (Kraft, et.al., 1985) focuses on the **birthmother,** and points out that:

- There is little "hard" data on the success of experimental adoption, whereas confidential adoption is known to work well.
- The rights and responsibilities of parenting differ significantly for the adoptive parents and the birthmother (who is often not prepared to exercise parental responsibilities in a mature fashion).
- The birth mother views her pregnancy with shock, anger, a sense of betrayal, disappointment, self blame, partner blame, bewilderment, and guilt response. It may be unrealistic to expect her to relate responsibly in an experimental adoption, acting as a godmother, aunt, babysitter, or sister.
- The birthmother may become competitive with the adoptive parents for the baby's love and attention.

Part II (Kraft et.al., 1985) focuses on the **adoptive parents,** and points out that:

- interferences from the birthmother add to the complexity of the adoptive parents' tasks.
- adoptive parents normally have concerns about the permanence of the placement, and contact with the birth parents may stimulate separation fears.
- contact with the birth parents may act as an impediment to the adoptive parents' bonding with the child.
- adoptive parents may feel compelled to increase contact with the birth parents out of guilt feelings, i.e., that they have benefitted from the misfortune of those who relinquished the child.
- adoptive parents have little bargaining power in experimental adoption, since they must comply with whatever is demanded of them if they are to receive a child.

Part III (Kraft et.al., 1985) focuses on risks to the **adopted child** in experimental adoption, and points out that:

- the child now has at least two sets of parent figures, inviting the child to play out developmental difficulties with both sets, pitting one against the other.
- adolescents may threaten to move in with the birth parents as a manipulative gesture against the adoptive parents.
- adoptive children may fear abandonment (consciously or subconsciously) because they know they were given up by the birth parents, and fear they could now be given up by the adoptive parents, if the experimental adoption becomes complicated.

Part IV (Kraft et.al., 1986) focuses on the **social worker** in experimental adoption, and points out that:

- experimental adoption may lack controls on the nature of the contact with the birth parents, and abrogates the social worker's professional responsibiliity to the birth parents.
- birth parents and adoptive parents may compete for the social worker's empathy in controlling the nature of the contacts.
- birthparents and adoptive parents may view the social worker as controlling and insensitive, or as abrogating control in a difficult situation.

Certainly each case is different. The needs, desires, and rights of all parties (birth parents, adoptive parents and most importantly the adopted child) must be balanced very carefully. The interests of each may conflict. Some "open" adoption practices leave negotiations to the parties involved. The results may have to do more with who is in the position of most power rather than what is truly in the best interests of the child, birth parents or adoptive parents. Summaries of meetings between birth parents and prospective adoptive couples who are emotionally invested in the outcome can not and should not replace the professional judgment of social workers trained in human behavior and child development. NCFA feels that the **best interests of the developing child must prevail above all others,** but the adopted child has no initial control over whether a confidential or experimental adoption will be arranged. Confidential adoptions are known to work well, while experimental adoptions have no empirical track record.

It is true that "identified adoption", in which the biological mother identifies and selects the adoptive parents, is growing in popularity because of the bargaining powers it gives her. In California, there are "open adoptions" that feature financial support for the birth mothers from the adoptive parents after relinquishment and finalization. Some say this borders on the adoptive family adopting one or both birth parents as a result of the negotiations (Pierce, 1986). Indeed, some adoptive parents involved in experimental adoptions with ongoing contacts with the birth parents have complained of just that. Many adoptive parents say that they were not prepared to cope with a birth parent who is emotionally needy and wants "parenting" herself.

Other procedures are mentioned by advocates of open adoption (and NCFA's reservations are):

a) Birth parent is required to spend time with the baby (should be optional).

b) Birth parent names child on the original birth certificate, even though it will be sealed and a new birth certificate made (serves no practical purpose, voids the reality that adoption severs all rights and responsibilities).

c) Birth parent learns first adoptive name of the child and first names of adoptive couple (could be clues in a later unauthorized search).

d) Birth parent selects adoptive parents after reviewing adoptive parent resumes and photobooks (replaces training and experience of social workers in home study for the usually untrained and inexperienced judgment of the birth mother, making her the caseworker).

e) Birth parents have ongoing correspondence with adoptive parents through the agency, with no sharing of last names or addresses (Are letters or responses required? If there are two adopted children in one family, what if one receives letters and the other does not?).

f) Birth parents send pictures of themselves and their extended family to the adoptive parents (could breach confidentiality).

g) Birth parents send a gift for the child (child compares magnitude of gifts of birth parents and adoptive parents, agency should have prerogative to screen gifts).

h) Birth parents meet in person with prospective adoptive couple, sometimes without sharing last names, sometimes negotiating for financial assistance beyond pregnancy expenses (caseworker should be present, minimizes possibility of lifelong harrassment and intrusion).

i) Birth parents meet privately with adoptive parents after the child is placed and the adoption is finalized (co-parenting, a kind of foster parenting is risky for the child's welfare (Pierce, 1984)).

Proponents of traditional adoption, on the other hand, worry that the experimental practices may have inadvertent and negative effects on the parties involved, especially the children. Their position is that confidentiality, tested by time and bolstered by research that shows that adopted persons are at least as emotionally healthy as non-adopted persons, has served the vast majority of people quite well. The charge that traditional adoption causes "genealogical bewilderment" among many adoptees is unsupported by data, and is more invention than fact. Confidentiality allows for the child to grow up in a psychologically-stable environment with one set of parents, free from the confusion created by birth parents. If adult adoptees want to meet their birthparents, and the birthparents also want to meet, arrangements should be made through the mutual consent adoption registries which many States now have.

The National Committee For Adoption is skeptical about experimental adoption and has long championed the importance of confidentiality in adoption. Solid research and clear definitions of experimental adoption are needed so that the relative risks and benefits of experimental adoption for birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoptees can be scientifically evaluated. The debate of traditional vs. experimental adoption practices can not move beyond semantics and confusion until such research data are available. The benefits to the adopted child should be the deciding factor.

31. "Surrogate Parenting"

A surrogate mother "is a woman who is artificially inseminated and carries the embryo to term, with the intention of relinquishing the child at birth as specified in a pre-arranged contract". A surrogate gestational mother is a woman who gestates and carries to term an embryo to which she is not genetically related, with the intention of relinquishing the child at birth. An estimated 600-1,000 children have been born to surrogate mothers (Washington Post, January 26, 1988, p. 13; Washington Post, May 30, 1988, p. A4).

The widely-publicized "Baby M" case in New Jersey, which was a $10,000 surrogacy contract (not including an additional estimated $20,000 in expenses and broker fees) between William and Elizabeth Stern and Mary Beth Whitehead-Gould (using artificial insemination with Stern's sperm), brought surrogacy issues into wide public discussion. On February 3, 1988, the New Jersey Supreme Court awarded custody of 22 month old Melissa to William Stern, and visitation rights to Mary Beth Whitehead-Gould. Under the ruling, such contracts are void and against public policy. The opinion, written by Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz said the contract amounted to "baby selling", and is "degrading to women". "This is the sale of a child, or at the very least, the sale of a mother's right to her child, with the only mitigating factor being that one of the purchasers is the father". Justice Wilentz also said the contract fails to consider the best interests of the child, the fitness of the contracting parents, and the impact of separation on the natural mother and child (New Jersey Law Journal, 121 N.J.L.J., Feb. 11, 1988, p. 260).

Reactions to the ruling were diverse. The director of Surrogate Mothers Inc. in Annapolis said the ruling would not have a negative impact on surrogate mothering. The program coordinator for the Center for Surrogate Parenting in Los Angeles said that surrogacy is merely compensating the mother for her time, energy, and going through a pregnancy (Washington Post, 2/4/88, p. A3). The director of the Surrogate Mother Program in New York City said that less than one percent of surrogate mothers change their minds after giving birth (Washington Post, May 30, 1988, p. A4). A spokesman for The National Coalition Against Surrogacy said that the court acknowledged that women's wombs cannot be commercially leased for nine months (Annapolis Evening Capital, Feb. 5, 1988, p. A10).

At least 20 States have scrambled to regulate surrogacy (Pierce, August 1986). Kentucky, Indiana, Louisiana, Florida, Michigan, Nebraska, and Utah have passed laws against commercial surrogacy. Michigan's law carries penalties of up to five years in prison and $50,000 in fines for middlemen who profit from surrogacy (Annapolis Evening Capital, June 29, 1988, p. A2). In Michigan, a surrogacy contract in Yates V. Keane, Judge Timothy Green, decided on January 21, 1988 to void a surrogacy contract because such agreements are contrary to public policy and raise concerns about the exploitation of children.

NCFA was the first national organization (in 1984) to officially oppose surrogate parenting. It did so on the basis that children are reduced to the level of a commodity and it is an exploitative industry (NCFA testimony, 10/15/87). Furthermore, NCFA has identified 21 reasons why the government should ban surrogacy, which creates a "buyer's market" of those who have been rejected by adoption agencies, often for good reason, or who have not even pursued adoption (Pierce, April 16, 1987; Pierce, Oct. 18, 1986).

Briefly, NCFA is opposed to surrogate parenting because:

1) It involves inhumane pre-birth agreements. Women sign contracts before they are pregnant or have given birth, and do not have the option of changing their minds. This fails basic tests of informed consent.

2) It splits siblings--a bad practice. Surrogacy brokers usually recruit women with at least one child. The surrogate mother's children know they are "growing a baby for someone else", and may fear that they, too, will be given away or sold. Just as it is unwise to separate siblings in adoption, it is unwise to separate siblings in the business of surrogacy.

3) The surrogate's husband bonds, too. The husbands of surrogate mothers have neither emotional nor legal rights.

4) The "openness" of surrogacy arrangements leads to shopping. Surrogate arrangements are often negotiated by attorneys who handle "open" adoptions, and see surrogacy as a growth field. Surrogacy arrangements have all the risks of open adoptions, discussed in greater depth in Chapter 30, in addition to the risks inherent in putting childbirth in the marketplace.

5) Custody battles. Open adoption and open surrogacy are similarly flawed, and children may feel the pull from competing parent figures.

6) Surrogacy is unlike A.I.D. (artificial insemination by donor), in that surrogacy carries many additional risks. A.I.D. in non-surrogacy arrangements is confidential, as few as possible know about the procedure, the sperm provider is unknown to parents of the baby, and records are sealed and destroyed. In surrogacy, the opposite is true.

7) Surrogacy is unethical and weakens the principles underlying current adoption process. It is only a short step, legally, from saying that it is acceptable for a woman to accept money for the transfer of a child who is purposefully conceived, to saying that a woman may accept money for a child who is accidentally conceived. This is particularly true since surrogacy need not involve the genetic contributions from either the proposed custodial father or mother (ova and sperm may be purchased, with women hired as incubators). Fierce bidding between surrogate entrepreneurs will occur, akin to the $50,000 fees sometimes arranged in open adoptions (Pierce, 1987, National Adoption Reports, "Surrogate Parenting").

For this reason, NCFA supports federal legislation to ban the business of surrogacy as well as state efforts to end the practice.

The following is a review of legislation concerning "surrogate parenting" introduced in state legislatures in 1988. The number at the beginning of each entry is the bill number. "HB" means "House Bill", "AB" means "Assembly Bill", and "SB" means "Senate Bill". The name after the bill number refers to the state legislator who sponsored it. 1989 will see some bills reconsidered, others dropped, and still more new legislation introduced.

1988 State Legislative Activity Regarding "Surrogate Parenting"

State:	Bill #:	Status:
AL:	HB 172;	McKee; would prohibit by making contracts void and unenforceable; held over for 1989 session
AZ:	SB 1378;	Brewer; would facilitate "surrogacy" by amending definition of "reasonable expenses" in adoption statute to include "surrogate parenting" arrangements; died
CA:	AB 2403;	Longshore; would prohibit; died in Committee
	AB 2404;	Longshore; designed to impede "surrogacy" by prohibiting contracts calling for certain prenatal interventions; died in Committee
	AB 3200;	Mojonnier, criminalizes commercial "surrogacy" and makes contracts unenforceable; passed by Assembly; died in Senate
	SB 2635;	Watson; would allow "surrogacy" but limit payment to expenses only; no action
CT:	HB 6109;	Committee on Judiciary; makes contracts unenforceable and would create study committee; died
FL:	HB 747;	Canady; would prohibit; died
	HB 29;	Frank; allows "surrogacy" but would require that mother can revoke consent to relinquish and would allow only payment of expenses; died
	SB 9;	Ros-Lehtinen; allows "surrogacy" but prohibits commercial "surrogacy" and allows birthmother to revoke consent 7 days after birth of child; passed by legislature; signed by Governor on July 1, 1988
GA:	SB 393;	Barnes; allows; died
IN:	HB 1140:	Bayliff; allows; died
	SB 98;	Johnson; makes contracts void and unenforceable and creates study committee; signed by Governor on March 5, 1988; went into effect March 15, 1988
IA:	HB 2052;	Teaford; allows commercial "surrogacy"; died
	HB 2279;	Hammond; allows but mother must be able to revoke consent; died
	SCR 120;	Committee on Human Resources; creates study committee; enacted
KS:	SB 620;	Winter; makes contracts void and unenforceable; died
KY:	SB 4;	Travis; prohibits commercial "surrogacy"; signed by Governor
MD:	SB 649;	Athey; allows; died
	SB 436;	Hoffman; does not directly address "surrogacy" but would impede by amending adoption "reasonable expenses" statute by excluding payments related to "surrogacy"; died

	SB 795;	Stone; prohibits all "surrogacy"; died
	SB 1479;	Kreamer; prohibits all but would allow "surrogacy" where the birth mother was the sister-in-law of the contracting father; died
MA:	HB 1146;	Clapprood; set up study committee; died
	HB 2712;	Bartley; set up study committee; died
	SB 717;	Bertonazzi; would allow; died
MI:	SB 229;	Binsfield; prohibits - criminalizes activities related to commercial "surrogacy"; passed by legislature on June 9, 1988; signed by Governor on June 27, 1988
MN:	HB 1701;	Rest; prohibits; died
	SB 1660;	Brandl; companion to HB 1701; died
MS:	SB 2157,	Miller; prohibits by making commercial contracts unenforceable; died
MO:	HB 1561;	Shear; allows; died
NE:	LB 674;	Chambers; makes contracts void and unenforceable; signed by Governor on February 10, 1988
NH:	HB 751;	Green; makes contract void and unenforceable; died
	HB 1108;	Jones; allows commercial "surrogacy"; died
	HB 1139;	Price; allows "surrogacy" but allows birth mother to revoke consent; died
	SB 281;	Hounsell; prohibits commercial "surrogacy"; died
	HB 1098;	sets up study committee; enacted on April 27, 1988
NJ:	AB 13;	Kavanaugh; prohibits commercial "surrogacy"; no action, died
	AB 956;	Kern; would allow; no action, died
	AJR 5;	Felice; would create a study committee; no action, died
	SB 1242;	Feldman; would create a study committee; no action, died
NY:	AB 5529;	Schmidt; allows but prohibits payment beyond expenses; no action, died
	AB 8852;	Proud; makes contracts void and unenforceable; no action, died
	AB 9882;	Faso; prohibits; no action, died
	SB 6891;	Marchi; prohibits - companion to AB 9882; no action, died
NC:	HB 1205;	Miller; makes contracts void and unenforceable; passed House in 1987, died in Senate
RI:	SB 2413;	Carlin; would extend life of study committee formed last session; passed
UT:	HB 17;	Protzman; set up study committee; signed by Governor on March 14, 1988; in effect from April 1 to December 31, 1988
	HB 201;	Atkinson; prohibits; died
VA:	HB 237;	Melvin; makes contract void and unenforceable; carried over to 1989 session
	HJR 11;	Keating; would create study committee; died

HJR 65; Cohen; would create study committee; died
HJR 106; Maxwell; would create study committee; died
HJR 118; Callahan; would create a study committee; passed
SJR 3; Michie; would create a study committee; passed

VT: HB 549; Fortna; would allow commercial "surrogacy" but provide that birthmother may revoke consent; died

WA: HB 1529; Braddock; allow; died
HB 2030; Padden; prohibits and criminalizes all types of surrogacy; died

WI: AB 827; Magnuson; allows but prohibits any payments beyond expenses; died
AJR 71; Tesmer; create study committee; passed and enrolled as JR 54

Legislative update from 1987:

The following bills were passed in 1987.

- Louisiana passed HB 327 (prohibit)
- Nevada passed SB 272 (neither expressly allows nor prohibits but amends "baby selling" prohibition to exclude "surrogacy")
- Indiana, Rhode Island, and Texas all passed laws creating a study committee.

1988 Legislative Scorecard:

59 bills or resolutions introduced in 27 states

27 of these would prohibit or impede "surrogacy"

18 would allow

14 would create a study committee

The following bills were enacted in 1988: Florida SB 9 (prohibit commercial "surrogacy" but allow other "surrogacy"); Iowa SCR 120 (establish a study committee); Indiana SB 98 (prohibit); Kentucky SB 4 (prohibit); Michigan SB 228 (prohibit); New Hampshire HB 1098 (establish a study committee); Nebraska LB 647 (prohibit); Rhode Island SB 2413 (extend study committee); Utah HB 17 (establish a study committee); Virginia HJR 116 and SJR 3 (establish a study committee); and Wisconsin AJR 71 (establish a study committee).

1989 Legislative update:

- Utah has passed HB 129, making commercial surrogacy illegal and making all surrogacy contracts void and against public policy.

32. Advertising For Babies

Because some prospective adoptive couples wind up on waiting lists for as long as 10 years, some couples try a direct appeal to expectant mothers. Attorneys involved in independent adoptions also run such ads. Based on NCFA's 1988 survey (full results reported in PART II. ADOPTION REGULATIONS of this *1989 Adoption Factbook*), 32 states permit, or at least do not forbid by statute, advertising for babies. The complete ads shown here are examples of ads now being run in newspapers across the country.

NCFA believes that these ads are high-risk, controversial, and the potential for abuse is too great. The victims include birthmothers and hopeful couples who are swindled, often by unethical attorneys, and infants who are placed into undesireable homes. There is just no guarantee to the young woman who answers such ads that this is a safe, legal, ethical, scrupulous situation. NCFA provided an inside look at how unscrupulous attorneys advertise, including the use of fake names, sympathetic apppeals, promises of money, unlisted phones, female intermediaries, and anonymous couples. Fees to couples are exorbitant; and may run as high as $50,000. (*National Adoption Reports*, 1986). Research has shown that fewer alternatives are presented to the birth mother when attorneys are the intermediaries in independent adoptions (Meezan et.al., 1978).

NCFA recognizes that many infertile couples may legitimately and appropriately use classified ads as their adoption route. Unfortunately, NCFA has also found that classified ads are routinely used by unscrupulous persons as a way to lure young women into disturbing and sometimes dangerous situations. Recently, baby mills have been exposed which used classified ads.

A controversial book by Martin (1988) called *Beating The Adoption Game* reviews the aggressive approaches some couples take in finding a baby through independent adoption that go well beyond newpaper ads. Some of the recommendations for couples to take are:

- talk to school nurses and physical-education teachers at high schools since they are often the first to know that a young girl is pregnant,

ADOPTION

Please let us adopt your baby. We are a happily married Christian couple seeking to adopt white infant. We are in our 30's, college educated and own our own home. We will provide lots of love, finest education and stay-at-home mom. We willpay all medical and legal expenses. Completely confidential. Please contact our adoption attorney at:

LOVING

Childless couple seeking to adopt baby. Have tried with no success for 7 years to have baby. We love children. Live in Northwestern suburbs and are financially secure. Please contact our attorney:

PE (code number)

BABY DESPERATELY WANTED FOR ADOPTION

Loving Catholic couple unable to have children. Own our home in a friendly neighborhood. We are responsible, caring people ready to spend all our time sharing our love with a much wanted baby. Please call our attorney

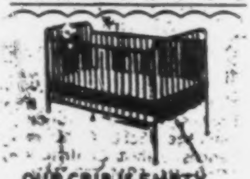
Larry

(dm)

BABY WANTED

Please help us find a baby to adopt. Childless couple love children dearly and can provide a good loving home. Well educated, own our own home, good jobs and lots of love to give. PLEASE, PLEASE help us. We have tried everything! Contact our attorney. Code T.B.

Lawrence



OUR CRIB IS EMPTY...

Please, please help us find a baby to adopt. Contact our lawyer.

- talk to all the young people you know, and ask them about anyone who is pregnant,

- go to concerts, skiing movies, and surfing movies and talk to the young people around you,

- go to restaurants, ice skating rinks, video arcades, youth oriented dress shops, and used clothing stores and talk to the adolescents, and

- talk to female hitchhikers.

NCFA has reservations about many of these approaches because they go well beyond ads. In ads, the pregnant woman must take the initiative to call. In "beating the adoption game", the pregnant woman becomes fair game for a hunt. An example of this abuse was reported to the Maryland Judicial Conference, in which telephone calls were made to pregnant women urging them to give up their newborns for adoption (Washington Post, p. B4, 4/24/88).

However, NCFA often encourages legitimate agencies to use a variety of approaches to advertise their services. These methods have included billboards, ads on train trestles, bus ads, radio ads, TV ads, yellow pages ads, newspaper ads, and even ads on tray liners at fast-food restaurants. These outreach techniques are effective in our media-oriented society, and offer protections for young women because they are provided with confidential, ethical, and legal services once they contact legitimate agencies (NCFA, 1984).

ADOPTION

Young, white, well educated, financially secure, happily married couple. We cannot conceive a child and desperately want to adopt a newborn. Our promise to your baby - EVERY ADVANTAGE THAT LIFE HAS TO OFFER but most of all LOTS & LOTS OF LOVE. We will provide financial help with all medical bills, legal fees, food, housing, maternity clothes and counseling if desired.

Please Think Adoption

Confidential. Call collect (   ) 233-3221.

ADOPTION: We are a loving couple who wish to adopt a baby. We are unable to have children of our own. Will pay legal and medical expenses. Please call Cathy and Lee collect (   )744-3116.

ADOPTION: Happily married couple wishes to adopt an infant to complete our family and share in our love. Confidential, call collect (   )244-5569.

ADOPTION: We are a couple that have been happily married for eight years but cannot have children on our own. We would love to adopt a baby. We can help w/legal and medical expenses. Strictly legal and confidential. Please call Paula & Larry, collect, at -384-3072.

ADOPTION

Young, white, well-educated, financially secure, happily married couple. We both adore children and cannot conceive our own. We think life is meaningless without having a child to LOVE AND CHERISH and desperately want to adopt a newborn. Our promise to your baby - EVERY ADVANTAGE THAT LIFE HAS TO OFFER but most of all HUGS, KISSES, UNDERSTANDING AND LOTS AND LOTS OF LOVE. We will provide financial help with all medical bills, legal fees, food, housing, maternity clothes and counseling if desired.

PLEASE THINK ADOPTION

Confidential. Call collect -233-3221.

33. Transracial Adoption

The issue of transracial adoption is surrounded by debate. It is a debate which highlights the failure of the child welfare system as a whole to deal adequately with issues of race. The National Committee For Adoption believes that transracial adoptions provide a viable alternative to the thousands of black and bi-racial children who wait for permanent homes. Others, including the National Association of Black Social Workers, contend that transracial adoption amounts to "cultural genocide" and is a white, imperialistic attempt to rob the black community of its children (Merritt, 1985). These groups submit that transracial adoption is intrinsically detrimental to the welfare of the child. Severe criticism of agencies and agency workers who place black children transracially may have caused transracial adoptions to decrease sharply over the past decade, but there are no national data on transracial adoptions.

Regretably, there is a consistently poor record in finding adoptive homes for these black children. In 1977, adoptive homes were found for only 37 percent of black children free for adoption (Westat, Inc., 1978). In 1983, based on a 13 State sample, adoptions were finalized for only 37 percent of adoptable black children in substitute care (APWA, 1985).

Careful research has shown that transracial adoption does allow for healthy development of children. Three books comprise the most exhaustive longitudinal study of children in transracial placements (Simon and Altstein, 1977; Simon and Altstein, 1981; Simon and Altstein, 1987). Simon and Altstein's 1987 book contains a number of key findings on transracial adoption, including:

- About 200 white families who had adopted a nonwhite child were interviewed in 1972, 1979, and 1984. Almost 400 children were also interviewed.
- The children were generally comfortable with their racial identity.
- The majority of the parents believed that their children identified with the racial background of their birth, one-fourth believed that their children identified themselves as white, and less than one-tenth believed that their children identified themselves as mixed.
- One-fifth of the children had physical, mental, or emotional difficulties that were either genetic or the result of poor treatment received previously in foster homes.
- Regarding the adopted child's interest in finding out about biological parents, 40 percent of the parents said their children expressed no interest, 42 percent said their children expressed mild interest, and 18 percent said their children expressed strong interest.
- Nearly three-fourths (71 percent) of the transracially adopted children said that being brought up in a white family gave them "no problems".

- On every measure in the study, the children responded consistently and strongly that they belonged to and felt a part of their family, and expected to be family members in good standing when they left the parental home and organized their own lives.

- The self-esteem scores of these transracially adopted children were equal to the scores of the biological children in the same families.

In summary, their data show that these children progress well up to and through the adolescent years; they are normal or above normal in self-esteem, racial identity, same race appreciation, and peer relations. McRoy and Zurcher (1983) concluded in their study that, while a transracial adoption produces unique issues for children, it should be considered a placement alternative when inracial adoptive homes are not available.

There are other good studies on transracial adoption (Grow and Shapiro, 1974; Ladner, 1977; McRoy et.al., 1983; Gil and Jackson, 1983). These studies generally show that transracial adoptions work well if couples are well-informed in advance of the unique situations they are likely to experience.

Opponents of transracial adoption submit that the shortage of black adoptive homes exists simply because of racism inherent in the practices of adoption agencies, and that a sufficient number of potential black homes do exist. These spokespersons also point to the prevalence of informal adoption in the black community. However, it must be remembered that informal adoption does not provide the necessary guarantees to ensure the welfare of the child, and that it is unrealistic to expect informal adoption to affect the plight of children in the foster care/child welfare system. Estimates from the 1982 National Survey of Family Growth are that 2.2 percent of ever-married white women and 1.5 percent of ever-married black women had adopted. (See discussion of Bachrach's NSFG research in "Who Adopts? Profile of Adoptive Parents" in this book).

While the needs of black and biracial children and black prospective adoptive parents have not been fully met, the bottom line remains that minority children wait for homes and that research has proven transracial adoption to be a viable alternative to meet the needs of these children.

The policy question remains: Do we eliminate this alternative from our practice repertoire while children wait? NCFA addressed this policy issue, and its Executive Committee approved the following statement on August 4, 1984:

> "In adoption, the best interests of the child should be the first consideration. In looking at the best interests of the child, we believe that considerations related to race or ethnicity should be kept in mind. Usually, placement of the child should be with a family of a similar racial or ethnic background. However, the placement of the child should not be unduly postponed because such a similar family is not available if otherwise qualified prospective adoptive parents of other races or ethnicity are available. In no instance should the permanence of an adoptive home be withheld from a child because a home of the same race or ethnicity is not available.

> In those instances of adoption across racial and ethnic lines, adoptive families are encouraged to become familiar with the cultural tradition, history, and values of their child's background. They should foster a firm development of their child's racial/ethnic identity. Placement agencies should become active in sponsoring both pre-adoption and post-adoption education and counseling services for those families which have entered into transracial and transnational adoption.
>
> Adoption across racial or ethnic lines should not be entered into lightly. There are many considerations that must be kept in mind, so that the child has the optimum opportunity to develop a sound sense of identity. However, it has been demonstrated that there have been and are adoptive parents of various races and ethnic backgrounds that have successfully parented children with other backgrounds.
>
> Every effort should be made to build a pool of prospective adoptive parents for children who are likely to need adoptive homes. These efforts should be made prior to the availability of a specific child, so that children do not have to wait, on an individual basis, while a separate search is made for a suitable adoptive family for them. Various methods, such as informal networks between agencies and adoption exchanges, should be utilized to build this pool of qualified couples willing to adopt children.
>
> Since, predictably, there will be healthy infants as well as children with special needs who need adoptive homes and since many of those children will be members of racial groups or ethnic groups which have not been characterized by large pools of waiting adoptive parents, it is critical that agencies, professional groups, and national organizations concerned with these issues work together to build such pools of waiting parents.
>
> We have had more than a decade of activities focused on trying to find homes for waiting children, after the children have been freed for adoption. We now need to move, positively and aggressively, to find those homes before the children are freed so that they do not have to remain in limbo one day more than necessary.
>
> Our ultimate goal is placing children as soon as they are legally free for adoption. Waiting six months to place a healthy infant would be deemed unsound. We must come to the point where it is considered unsound for any special needs child, including a child of minority or mixed racial or ethnic background, to wait for six months while a search for a home that is racially or ethnically matching is sought."

A consent decree recently issued by the U.S. District Court in Michigan (File No. 85CV7438DT) recently affirmed that it is not permissible to use racial criteria in the placement of children for adoption and foster care by the Michigan Department of Social Services. And now, black children are routinely described in The Adoption Information Center of Illinois photolisting books as being available for adoption by all prospective couples (Ehlers, 1986).

There are about a quarter of a million children in foster care in America today, and about half are minority children. More than half of the black children have been in foster care for two years or more as compared with one-third of the white children. At least 36,000 of these children in foster care are legally free and waiting for adoption, and the average age is nine years old (Altstein and Rosenberg, 1986). NCFA feels that it is critical to move these children into permanent homes as quickly as possible.

34. Teenage Birthparents

Teen pregnancy continues to be a serious problem in the United States because of its sheer numbers and the many adverse effects it has on the pregnant teen, the father of the baby, their respective families and the child. In the end, only 2-3 of every 100 teen pregnancies become live births in which the mother makes an adoption plan.

In 1983, 1,032,900 teens became pregnant, and the rate was 109.2 pregnancies per 1,000 females age 15-19. About 40 percent of these teen pregnancies were terminated by induced abortion accounting for over one-tenth of all U.S. abortions (Ventura et.al., 1988). Furthermore, births to teens between the ages of 15 and 19 are increasingly out-of-wedlock. In 1970, 29.5 percent of births to teens were out-of-wedlock. In 1986, 60.8 percent of all teen births were out-of-wedlock (48.1 percent to white teens, 90.0 percent to black teens, 38.0 percent to Cuban teens, 43.0 percent to Mexican teens, and 73.0 percent to Puerto Rican teens) (NCHS, 1987).

Less than one-tenth of the babies born to teens out-of-wedlock are placed in adoptive homes (Bachrach, 1986). However, reputable research described in Chapters 40 and 55 shows that birthmothers who make adoption plans for their children do well, as do their adopted infants.

Unfortunately, most of the research emphasis currently in the field of teen pregnancy is on the choice to have an abortion or be a single parent. The research reflects what is being done in practice, and little has been done to look at the characteristics of teens who choose adoption.

Two studies have tried to predict which types of male and female teenagers are at greatest risk of single parenthood. Elster (1987) analyzed the National Longitudinal Survey of Work Experience, a nationally-representative sample of people first interviewed when age 14-21 in 1979, and interviewed annually since then. The males who became teenage fathers were compared with males who did not become teenage fathers. The results showed that:

- About 60 percent of white teenage fathers and half of black and Hispanic teenage fathers reported convictions, formal charges, or apprehensions (not including traffic tickets). Only one-third of non-fathers had brushes with the law.

- Two-thirds of white teenage fathers, and 57 percent of black and Hispanic fathers used marijuana; usage was 15 percentage points lower for non-fathers.

- Annual family income of teenage fathers' parents was $10,800 compared with $15,600 for that of non-fathers.

A similar pattern emerges for females likely to become single mothers. In 1980 (Abrahamse et.al., 1988), 13,061 female high school sophomores responded to a questionnaire which contained many questions including: "Would you consider having a child if you weren't married?" Twenty-three percent of white sophomores, 29 percent of Hispanic sophomores, and 41 percent of black sophomores said "yes" or "maybe yes" to the question in 1980. In 1982 the same girls were surveyed again to see if they had in fact become mothers in the two-year time interval. White, black and Hispanic girls were analyzed separately, but four key factors predicted these three groups to be at "high-risk" if they:

1) answered "yes" or "maybe yes" to the above question;

2) had disciplinary problems in school, class cutting and absenteeism;

3) had lower educational aspirations; and

4) had general instances of depression in the month preceding the 1980 interview.

"Low risk" was characterized by absence of the four factors listed above. Of the "low risk" black sophomores, only 4.6 percent became pregnant by 1982, compared with 29.1 percent pregnant among the "high risk" black sophomores. Only 0.6 percent of the "low risk" Hispanic girls became pregnant by 1982 compared with 20.4 percent of the "high risk" Hispanic sophomores. And only 0.2 percent of the "low risk" white sophomores became pregnant compared with 5.7 percent of the "high risk" white sophomores. The authors viewed the "high risk" groups as rebellious nonconformists, and they stressed the importance of teenagers' psychological and economic perspectives on nonmarital childbearing.

Thus, both male and female teenagers likely to become teenage parents can be identified in advance as characterized by similar constellations of rebellious and nonconformist attributes within specific racial/ethnic groups. However, neither study considered the likelihood of pregnant teenagers and their partners to choose adoption for their infants.

In contrast, the information we have from the 1982 National Survey of Family Growth on children who were placed in adoptive homes gives some insight into some characteristics of birthmothers who choose adoption (Bachrach, 1986). Text table 34 was adapted from Bachrach's work. Bachrach's (1986) research showed that 17 percent of babies born out-of-wedlock to white mothers age 17 or younger were placed in adoptive homes, compared with 10 percent of out-of-wedlock babies born to 18-19 year olds and 11 percent of those born to women age 20 and over. Only one percent or fewer of black mothers in each age group placed the baby for adoption.

White mothers with any given set of characteristics are far more likely to place their infants for adoption than are black mothers. This may reflect the greater use of "informal adoption" by black mothers. Younger mothers, mothers whose children were born before 1973, mothers living with both parents at age 14, and mothers whose fathers had more education were more likely to place their infants for adoption. This reflects the mothers' resources to deal with premarital pregnancy in relation to their school and employment plans, the lower availability of abortion and welfare support before 1973, and parental involvement and values in the adoption choice. It is worth noting that about one-fifth of the white mothers whose fathers had 13 years or more of education placed their infants for adoption.

Text table 34. Percentage of Premarital Births Placed For Adoption: U.S., 1982

	All races	White	Black
All births	6.2	12.2	0.4
Age 17 or younger at birth	8.1	17.2	1.0
Age 18-19 at birth	4.6	10.1	0.0
Age 20-44 at birth	5.9	10.9	0.2
Year of child's birth before 1973	8.5	19.5	0.7
Year of child's birth 1973 or later	4.6	8.0	0.1
Protestant	5.5	15.0	0.2
Catholic	7.9	9.4	0.0
Other/no religious preference	6.7	11.8	2.4
Education of mother's father			
Less than 12 years	2.6	6.3	0.2
12 years	9.9	16.6	1.0
13 years or more	12.5	19.5	0.0
Living with both parents at age 14	7.6	13.6	0.2
Living with one or neither parent at age 14	4.3	9.6	0.5

We juxtapose these findings against a nonrepresentative 1987 Family Circle Magazine (10/20/87) poll which surveyed 50,000 of their female readers, and asked, among other things, what advice they would offer a daughter who was pregnant and unmarried. The most picked choice was adoption, and 30 percent of the mothers said they would advise their daughter to carry the child to term and place the baby for adoption. In reality, however, the statistics show that daughters rarely choose the "adoption option".

Combining the statistics presented above, we see that about 11 percent of teens become pregnant annually. About 40 percent of these pregnancies are terminated by abortion, and of those remaining pregnancies that end in live birth, three-fifths of births occur while the mother is still unmarried. However, less than one-tenth of unmarried teen mothers make an adoption plan. The "adoption option" needs far greater emphasis among these teenage birthmothers.

35. AIDS Babies—Maternity Care, Foster Care, and Adoption

NCFA believes that AIDS babies will be an increasing share of children who will need expensive care and will require an aggressive search for prospective adoptive parents who will be able to meet their special needs. AIDS has caused agencies to develop policies on testing of infants and/or maternity clients and consider service needs of this special population group.

As of February 20, 1989, there were 1,432 cases of pediatric (children under age 13) AIDS (HIV-Human Immunodeficiency Virus) reported to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Of these cases 1,119 (78 percent) were infected by their mothers either in utero, at the time of delivery or in a few cases from infected breast milk. Of the total pediatric cases, 55 percent have already died. CDC estimates that by 1991, over 3,000 children will suffer from the disease (Koop, 1987; Washington Post, 5/12/88). In New York City, one in every 61 babies born tests positive for HIV antibodies, based on results from anonymous testing of newborns (New York Times, 1/13/88). NCFA therefore estimates that nearly 1,800 of the 110,000 infants born in New York annually may be born to HIV infected mothers.

It is estimated that infants born to HIV infected mothers have a 20-50 percent chance of being infected. Most infants born to infected mothers will test positive for HIV antibodies at birth. But since infants often harbor antibodies from their mothers which will eventually disappear, it is not possible with current testing to determine which infants are infected (unless they develop symptoms of AIDS) until they are 15 months old. Approximately 70-75 percent of infants who test positive for HIV antibodies at birth have negative test results at 15 months of age (Unmarried Parents Today 12/16/87). To complicate matters, there is evidence in both adults and children that antibodies may disappear temporarily and go into a dormant state only to reappear later (Wall Street Journal, 6/1/88). Negative tests following positive tests may need to be verified at a later date.

According to a June 1987 survey of 25 states by the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange, about one-third of the babies born to HIV infected mothers will be abandoned or orphaned, and many will die before leaving the hospital. Major cities like New York and Washington are facing a crisis of children, mostly born to drug addicted mothers, being abandoned in hospitals. The foster care system is not prepared to find homes for this growing number of children and the process is often held up by the inability to locate the mother or her resistance to intervention. The group of children, whether they are infected or not, presents a special challenge to adoption agencies because their mothers are for the most part i.v. drug users, infected with HIV, perhaps dying, and often unable or unwilling to care for the child.

Some agencies such as Community Maternity Services in Albany, NY have accepted the challenge to find foster and adoptive homes for children born to infected mothers. Through a State contract they are able to offer parents additional assistance, reimbursement for baby sitters, and equipment such as washing machines. They have found families who are willing and able to care for the special needs of these children with the proper support and training. Hospital care for one infant born infected with HIV can cost more than $200,000 per year and few families could cover the costs, so there is a need for state support. Medical services are not the only services which families will need.

Some will need specialized day care, respite care, family counseling, etc.

Foster care and adoption agencies are profoundly aware of the effect that AIDS will have on the future of their programs. Most agencies are in the process of considering or have already implemented policies and procedures to ensure that adequate information and services are available to birthparents, children and prospective adoptive parents to meet the special needs of mothers and babies infected or at risk of being infected with HIV. Some agencies require testing of all birthmothers and/or newborns. Other agencies such as LDS Social Services require high-risk clients to have a blood test, and they share test results with foster or adoptive parents. High-risk birth parents or children are those who:

- Since 1977 have been involved in homosexual acts, prostitution, sexual acts with more than one partner, or intravenous drug use
- Have received blood transfusions since 1977
- Are hemophiliacs
- Have been sexual partners of the above
- Are babies born to infected mothers

Similar guidelines have been established by the Connecticut State Health Department (Tooker, 1984), and other health departments. The CDC has issued eleven recommendations for the education and foster care of AIDS children, including AIDS screening for adoption and foster care evaluations of high-risk children, including a consideration of legal issues in forming guidelines (civil rights of public school attendance, protections for handicapped children under 20 U.S.C 1401 et.seq. and 29 U.S.C 794, the confidentiality of a student's school record under state laws and under 20 U.S.C. 1232g, and employee right-to-know statutes for public employees in some states) (MMWR, 1985).

As of July 8, 1987, all persons applying for a long-term visa (including adopted children) must have an AIDS virus test (Jenista, 1987). The risk of foreign-born children having AIDS is less than in the United States as estimated by Jenista (1987).

In addition the AIDS epidemic has created a need for major changes in counseling. Pregnancy counselors must now be trained to probe more deeply about clients' high risk behaviors to determine whether they are a member of a high-risk group. Efforts should also be made to modify high-risk behaviors to prevent future infection of HIV. Counselors who previously did not deal with issues of death may now find themselves counseling a birth mother who is dying and helping her to come to terms with her own death and the guilt she is feeling because of the possibility of her child's infection. Adoption counselors also must prepare prospective adoptive couples for the needs of the child and the anguish that will come from watching the child suffer and eventually die.

36. "Wrongful" Adoption

Wrongful adoption refers to a growing number of lawsuits filed by adoptive parents against public adoption agencies. These families have claimed that the agencies misrepresented the physical and/or emotional condition of the child at the time of adoption and that, had they had complete and accurate information, they either would not have adopted the child in the first place or would have provided early and necessary treatment for the child.

In 1988 the first class action wrongful adoption lawsuit was filed by six adoptive families against the state of Texas. These families all adopted toddler-aged children years ago from the state agency. The children, upon reaching the pre-teen and teen years, began to behave in disturbed, bizarre, and sometimes dangerous ways. Some of the children became violent, others engaged in criminal activities. All needed treatment, and for some this meant residential care costing up to $15,000 per month. It was only when these children finally received treatment was it learned that they had been severely physically and/or sexually abused by their biological parents or other early caretakers. In their lawsuit, the families claimed that the state agency withheld crucial information regarding the children's background. They petitioned the court for full disclosure (minus names of biological relatives) of the state's files on the children and for a court ruling ordering the states to pay for the children's treatment. The state responded that no information was willfully withheld, that adoption practice and knowledge were quite different at the time these families adopted, and that complete background histories of the children may have been unavailable at the time. A Federal district judge in Dallas denied both of the parents' requests. This ruling is being appealed, however.

In another precedent-setting case, the Ohio Supreme Court sided with the adoptive parents in their wrongful adoption suit against a county adoption agency (Burr v. Stark County Board of Commissioners; Ohio SupCt, 23 Ohio St., 3d 69, 4/11/86). The court found that the county agency had told the Burrs that their prospective adoptive son was healthy, even though the county agency was aware of tests showing that the child may have low intelligence and was at risk of disease. The court awarded the Burrs $125,000. "It would be a travesty of justice and a distortion of the truth," the court wrote, "to conclude that deceitful placement of this infant, known by appellants to be at risk, was not actionable when the tragic but hidden realities of the child's infirmities finally came to light." The court also went on to state that, "In no way do we imply that adoption agencies are guarantors of their placements...However, just as couples must weigh the risks of becoming natural parents, taking into consideration a host of factors, so too should adoptive parents be allowed to make their decision in an intelligent manner."

Other wrongful adoption lawsuits have also been filed. In California, a county agency has settled out of court with one family. In another case, a California appeals court has ruled that an adoptive family may proceed with a suit against another county agency (Michael J. v. Los Angeles County Dept. of Adoptions; Calif CtApp 2dDist, No. B023155, 5/31/88). And the Rhode Island Supreme Court has ruled that a case brought by a family alleging that the public agency misrepresented the health of the adopted child is a charge worthy of trial and that their suit may proceed (In re Lisa Diane G.; RI SupCt, No. 87-238, 2/17/88).

Nothing suggests that this legal trend will abate. Certainly one must distinguish between the agency which provides all known information to adoptive parents (recognizing that there will always be limits to an agency's ability to learn everything and to predict the implications of what is known), and an agency that deliberately deceives the prospective adoptive parents. The legal issues involved in wrongful adoption go beyond "risk management" for adoption agencies. The legal responsibilities of placing agencies and the legal relationship between an agency and the family who has adopted are issues that have not been adequately explored. These issues raise questions that are yet to be answered. The answers to these questions will help to shape adoption practice for years to come.

37. Post-Legal Adoptive Services For the Adoption Circle

The most important work on this topic has been published by Spencer (1988), and will be summarized in relation to this 1989 Adoption Factbook. Birth parents, adoptive parents, and adopted persons may need expert counseling after the adoption is finalized. Child welfare agencies involved with adoption or maternity services have increasingly begun to offer post-legal adoption services because the professional's task is not complete once the adoption is finalized. Twelve facets of this task are identified:

1) Keeping abreast of social change. A workshop could be held on current adoption topics, such as those discussed in the "current issues" in Part IV of this 1989 Adoption Factbook.

2) Sharing of genetic information. NCFA's discussions of "openness" in the adoption circle and searchers often revolve around the desire to share family background information, discussed in Chapter 30.

3) Intermediary services. These services concern sharing non-identifying information, or setting up meetings for members of the adoption circle, and state regulations on this matter are presented in Chapter 10 entitled "Survey on State Laws and Legislation on Access to Adoption Records".

4) Outreach or search. NCFA endorses voluntary mutual consent registries, where adoptees and birthparents who register are willing to meet. NCFA has a model law on this topic which over 20 States have adopted in one form or another.

5) Individual and family problem-solving. Any member of the adoption circle may later seek counseling to resolve issues concerning self-identity, childrearing problems, or assurance that the adopted child is doing well, not all of which are directly related to the adoption.

6) The meaning of functional family relationships. Genetic counseling, and how hereditary genes affect health, physical appearance, and behavioral patterns should be addressed in a factual manner.

7) Transracial and transcultural families. An understanding of the cultural and ethnic group from which the child came is necessary. Information on these issues is presented in Chapters 49 and 50 on transracial adoption and Hispanic adoption.

8) Coping as a family of mixed ethnic origin. The entire family should assume an identity as ethnically diverse; friends, teachers, medical professionals, and the public should be oriented to accept ethnically-mixed families.

9) Helping children to understand why adoption was planned for them. American parents who have adopted foreign children may have greater difficulty in explaining the adoption decision-making process by foreign birthparents. Chapter 54 entitled "Four Adopted Kids Only" addresses these issues.

10) *Identity and adjustment issues for the transculturally and transracially adopted child. Integration of the child into the peer group and community may* be facilitated by counseling and support groups. A large number of these support groups are listed in Chapter 65 of this *1989 Adoption Factbook*.

11) *A greater demand for information. There is a trend towards greater openness to provide the adoption* circle with optional avenues through which to fill their need for information about one another, and this exchange of information often requires the mediation or assistance of the agency.

12) *Participants in private or independently arranged adoptions often do not receive counseling preparation. NCFA has discussed this in Chapters 47 and 48 as among the* risks in independent adoption. After the adoption, persons may need post-legal adoption services to fill the gap in counseling that should have been received before the adoption.

Recently, the Spence-Chapin adoption agency in New York established an Adoption Counseling Team to respond to the increasing number of requests for help from adoptive families and individuals involved in a wide range of issues and problems (Spence-Chapin, 1987). These services are also disucssed in *Provisions for Accreditation of the Council on Accreditation for Services to Families and Children, Inc.* Briefly, these standards discuss:

- counseling to the adoptive parents if the placement is unsuccessful,
- a written policy on search,
- a policy on types of post-legal adoption services provided and the fees, and
- evaluation of its own adoption services.

The Children's Home Society of Minnesota has published a detailed "Description of Post-Legal Adoption Counseling and Support Services" (Children's Home Society, no date). Eight services are offered:

1) Individual and family counseling (for adoptive parents, adopted persons, and birthparents),

2) Background histories and updates (including updated history from birthparents, genetic and hereditary data from doctors, and resource materials),

3) Intermediary services (to share legally mandated sharing of medical and social information),

4) Requests to search circle members under 1977 and 1982 Minnesota laws (under which the agency is requested by adopted persons and birth parents to conduct a search to determine if the person wishes to be contacted by the searcher),

5) Post-legal adoption services workshops (primarily for adoptive parents to develop their communication skills, understand crosscultural adoption, etc.),

6) Numerous support and discussion groups (for birth mothers, adopted adults, Korean teens, Korean pre-teens, adoptive parents experiencing childrearing difficulties),

7) Consultations with other professionals (who see a member of the adoption circle and then request a consultation with an agency professional), and

8) Public education (using visual aids, news releases, brochures, curriculum inputs into the school system, public lectures, and informed legislation).

The Federal Adoption Opportunities Act authorizes $2 million for the new Post-Legal Adoption Services program for special needs adoption and the new initiative to find homes for waiting minority children. NCFA played an integral part in creating these two new programs.

The FAMILY
LAW REPORTER®

Monograph No. 4

September 1, 1987 THE BUREAU OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS, INC. Volume 13, No. 42

(Reprinted by Permission)

38. Adoption Practice Today: The Current Judicial Boundaries (reprint)

by Jeffrey Rosenberg and William Pierce

Jeffrey Rosenberg, M.S.W., is the Director for Adoption Services at the National Committee for Adoption. William Pierce, Ph.D., is President of NCFA.

A review of recent judicial developments regarding adoption practice reveals that child placement agencies are wrestling with great challenges as they work to provide quality services. Today, agencies are faced with potential judicial restrictions to the financing of services, with a lack of clarity regarding putative fathers' rights as they relate to due process requirements, with questions on the legal nature of the adoptive family itself, with challenges to the confidentiality of professional practice, and with the specter of "wrongful adoption" suits. This monograph will examine these recent developments and attempt to provide a look at where adoption is going, at least within judicial bounds.

Financing Services

Financing of services is a difficult issue for all social service providers; it is especially difficult for child placement agencies. In some areas, for example, local United Way charities do not wish their funds to go toward financing adoption services directly, but, rather, insist that these services be covered by adoption fees. At the same time, the agencies are facing a rise in the costs of service delivery, and birth mothers demand high quality services, while adoptive parents are sometimes unable or unwilling to pay for the rising costs. Adoption may thus be in danger of becoming an option only for well-to-do applicants as costs of delivering quality services rapidly rise. At the same time, many factors weigh against funding services through the public, tax-supported health services system, not the least of which are the resistance on the part of birth mothers to enter the "welfare" system and the scarcity of obstetricians and gynecologists who accept Medicaid.

Many child placement agencies have tried to balance these financial pressures by funding services in large part through fees to adoptive parents, which are determined on a sliding scale based upon the adoptive parents' income. The balance of costs to the agency are offset by income from endowments or private donations. However, in a recent 4-3 ruling, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court held a sliding-scale fee arrangement illegal, deeming it tantamount to baby-selling, and ruled that a host of other practices, up until then considered appropriate and standard by adoption agencies, were improper. *In re Baby Girl D.*, 517 A2d 925, 13 FLR 1076 (Pa 1986).

The court, first examining the services questioned, observed that allowable expenses to adopting parents have traditionally been limited to actual costs of birth and reasonable legal fees. Such limitations, it said, ensure that the wealth, or lack thereof, of the adoptors is not the sole criterion upon which placement is made or denied and that "the limitation upon expenses ensures that children are not bought and sold like commodities." The court attempted to delineate a strict rule for determining the allowability of charges to adoptors: "Thus, payments to or for natural parents by adoptor parents are permissible when the payments are for services which directly benefit the child, such as medical expenses directly related to the birth. Such expenses are paid to ensure a safe birth and healthy infant, and not for the benefit of the mother, although the mother certainly receives an indirect benefit. Payments by adoptor parents which do not directly benefit the child are impermissible."

The court accordingly disallowed expenses such as prenatal care, sonograms, and maternal counseling, as well as costs for transportation and housing of biological mothers in the locale of the agency.

A standard fee, in the cases in question ranging from $50 to $75 per case, for counseling of prospective adoptors was also ruled unallowable. The court determined that adoptors may not be required to partake in counseling, but if they wish to avail themselves of such services they should pay fair value.

Sliding-Scale Fees

The court next turned to the issue of sliding-scale fee systems. The danger presented, it said, "is that white infants will be placed with the family who can pay the most money." It declared that "[w]hat relation the costs of providing an adoption service could possibly bear to the adoptors gross income escapes definition. . . . It is the function of the orphans' court division of the courts of common pleas to guard that adoptions do not provide a profit, for, when they do, someone is surely 'dealing in humanity' . . . Indeed, any agency fee which is unrelated to those set forth in this opinion must be disallowed."

Copyright © 1987 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

0148-7922/87/$00.50

This decision is potentially threatening to adoption agencies' ability to render quality services. In a dissent joined by two other justices, Justice Hutchinson wrote that "the distinction between direct and indirect [benefit to the child] will at best prove elusive and will probably lead to anomalous results." Justice Hutchinson has quickly proved prescient. Already, some adoptions in Pennsylvania have not been finalized as a result of this ruling. According to information supplied by the Family Infertility & Adoption Center in Pittsburgh, one judge has ruled improper the payment by an adopting couple of costs incurred by the adoption agency in providing post-placement supervision services required by law, home studies, and legal fees related to termination of parental rights. This judge has ordered the agency to return such payments to the adoptors in at least one case, despite the absence of any expression of a desire for repayment on the part of the adopting couple.

The issues of *In re Baby Girl D.* are more correctly left to the legislature, as the dissenting justices in that case state: the state legislature is expected to examine these issues. However, the precedent created by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court is troublesome beyond the borders of Pennsylvania, for the case creates a threat to the concept that there exist certain requisite services in quality adoption practice and that it is sensible and acceptable for adoptors to pay for these services.

Fee Increases

An earlier case from Illinois presents a different view of the financial relationship between adoptive parents and adoption agencies. *Crismore v. Catholic Social Service of Peoria*, 479 NE2d 1217, 11 FLR 1484 (Ill AppCt 1985), involved three adopting couples who sought to recover $600 each from $3600 fees that they had previously paid following the completed adoptions. The fee had been represented to the couples as $3000 at the beginning of the adoption process, but during the process the agency had raised the fee. The trial court had ruled that the fee increase was the result of an unconscionable contract imposed by the agency upon the plaintiffs, stating that "there was gross inequality in the bargaining positions of the parties, together with imposition of a term unreasonably favorable to the stronger party." The agreement that the couples had signed with the agency (CSS) made no mention of fees. On appeal, the court reversed, finding that there was no written contract between the agency and the couples; that while there were oral discussions regarding a $3000 fee, there existed no oral or implied contract. The "mere fact that there was a difference in bargaining power between CSS and the individual couples," the court reasoned, "is not sufficient, of itself, to support a conclusion that CSS imposed an unconscionable contractual provision when it notified the individual couples of the increase in fee." Of the fee itself, which was for medical care of birth mothers, the court found "nothing unreasonable ... [in] its purpose."

Opinions expressed in this Monograph do not necessarily represent the views of the Family Law Reporter.

Putative Fathers' Rights

Perhaps there is no greater legal barrier facing a mother or pregnant woman wishing to make an adoption plan than the questions surrounding the putative father's due process rights.

The rights of biological fathers have been delineated by the U.S. Supreme Court in a series of cases. The rights of biological fathers of children born out-of-wedlock were first established in *Stanley v. Illinois*, 405 U.S. 645 (1972). Stanley was the father of two children and he had lived with their mother, to whom he was not married, intermittently for 18 years. Upon the death of the mother, the children were declared wards of the state and placed in a foster home. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the state could not presuppose Stanley to be an unfit father solely because of the fact that he had not legitimated the relationship through marriage, and that Stanley deserved the same due process protections as do married fathers because he had established a family relationship with the children.

With respect to the interests of a father who has not established a relationship with his offspring, but who seeks to assert his parental rights in opposition to the desires of the mother, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Quilloin v. Walcott*, 434 U.S. 246, 4 FLR 3023 (1978), that such interests "are readily distinguishable from those of a separated or divorced father," adding that the state could permissibly give the father less veto authority over adoption than it provided to a married father. The Court went on to state that "[u]nder any standard of review, the State was not foreclosed from recognizing this difference in the extent of commitment to the welfare of the child."

In two more decisions, the Supreme Court went on to further state that biological fathers are not all alike, that, indeed, they need not be treated as if they were all entitled to the same due process and equal protection considerations accorded to Stanley. In *Caban v. Mohammed*, 441 U.S. 380, 5 FLR 3087 (1979), the Court examined a New York statute providing for the automatic use of gender classifications in disposing of parental rights termination, and found it to be unconstitutional. The Court did allow, however, that parental ability to veto an adoption may be handled with varying degrees of respect based on the degree to which a parent has exercised his or her parental rights.

And in *Lehr v. Robertson*, 463 U.S. 248, 9 FLR 3077 (1983), the Court upheld a New York statutory scheme that required notice of adoption to putative fathers only if they were either identified as the child's father (in one of several statutorily prescribed ways), or if they registered with the state's "putative father registry." "If one parent has an established custodial relationship with the child," the Court concluded, "and the other parent has either abandoned or never established a relationship, the Equal Protection Clause does not prevent a state according the two parents different legal rights."

Although these Supreme Court rulings provide parameters, they do not provide any clear and consistent

Copyright © 1987 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.
0148-7922/87/$00.50

guidelines for disposing of the parental rights of putative fathers. The following is a discussion of the significant recent judicial developments in the search for such guidelines.

State Court Decisions

The most significant recent decision in this area was *In re Karen A.B.*, 513 A2d 770, 12 FLR 1547 (Del 1986), in which an unwed woman desired that her child be adopted, and consented to the termination of her parental rights. She acknowledged that she knew the identity of the biological father, but refused to name him, claiming that she feared harassment from him. The adoption agency petitioned the Family Court to terminate the parental rights of both the mother and the unnamed father, but the court refused to terminate the father's rights, because the father was unaware of the child's existence and was thus denied the opportunity to express any interest or meet any parental responsibilities. The court ruled that the father had a due process right to be notified of the termination proceeding. The Delaware Supreme Court originally affirmed this ruling, but after reargument reversed itself. Delaware statutes allow for dispensing with the consent of the biological father in cases where the mother refuses to identify him, and the petitioner, the agency, describes its efforts to identify him. The court concluded that "it is in Karen's best interest that her father's parental rights be terminated without notice to him and without his consent. . . . Most importantly, should we refuse to terminate his rights, Karen would face the possibility of perpetual foster care, a result we cannot sanction. Moreover, we are conscious of the mother's privacy interest in being free from harassment by Karen's father."

In *In re Baby Boy D.*, 12 FLR 1088 (Okla 1985), the court upheld a state statute granting an unwed mother the exclusive right to consent to her child's adoption unless the father has legitimated the child. In this case the putative father had made no attempt to provide for the mother during pregnancy or to learn when and where the child was to be born, after which he paid no money toward the care of the child or mother. The court justified the differing statutory treatment of unwed mothers and unwed fathers based on the differences in their responsibilities. Noting that the "paramount interest to be considered is the child's best interest," the court also delineated the relationship between such a statute and the best interests of the child. It declared that "a primary emotional need is for permanency and stability" and that the "basis for constitutional protection [of parental interests] is missing if the parent seeking it has not taken on those parental responsibilities which provide such permanence and stability." The court concluded that "[g]ranting unwed fathers the same rights as all other parents, but with no guarantee that they would assume the responsibilities that other parents assume, would be giving the unwed father an unqualified right to block an adoption, absent unfitness, even though the adoption might be in the child's best interest."

In *In re Baby Boy Doe*, 717 P2d 686, 12 FLR 1256 (Utah 1986), a biological father appealed the termination of his parental rights. He had lived with his child's mother for 3½ years in California, but the mother, when she became pregnant, moved to Utah to be with her family. The mother assured the appellant that she would not place the child for adoption, but rather would move with the appellant to Arizona, along with the child. The appellant had only been in Utah once, for a short camping trip with the mother. While the the appellant was on the road between Arizona and California, the child was born, and the mother, influenced by relatives, consented to the adoption of her child by a couple known to the family. The trial court, basing its decision upon a Utah statute that permits termination of the parental rights of a father of an illegitimate child if the father has failed to file a claim for paternity prior to the filing of a petition to adopt, terminated the appellant's parental rights because he had not filed such a claim. The Utah Supreme Court, while upholding the constitutionality of the statute, found it to be unenforceable in this instance. The court determined that circumstances in this case rendered it "impossible to file" the parental claim and therefore the appellant was not given the requisite "reasonable opportunity" to comply with the statute. The court cautioned that this "reasonable opportunity" standard applies only where the "impossibility" of filing exists through no fault of the putative father, and that lack of knowledge of the statutory requirements does not constitute "impossibility."

In *In re Baby Doe*, 492 So2d 508 (1986), the Louisiana Court of Appeal determined that the right of an unwed father to oppose the adoption of his child is not equivalent to the right to veto a proposed adoption. Under Louisiana law, the act of acknowledgment of paternity by the putative father entitles him to a hearing at which he may oppose the adoption of his child. At such a hearing, the court applies only a "best interests of the child" standard; the biological mother, however, has the right to veto an adoption. This discrepancy, the appellate court ruled (relying upon *Lehr*), is not reason to find the statutory scheme violative of due process and equal protection standards.

These four cases clearly support the proposition that the standards of equal protection do not preclude statutory schemes designed to promote the interest of the state in expediting adoptive placements that dispense with putative fathers' rights in an automatic fashion. Another case, *Augusta County Department of Social Services v. Unnamed Mother*, 348 SE2d 26, 12 FLR 1600 (Va CtApp 1986), provides comment on what constitutes due process. The court determined that notification through publication, as opposed to personal notice through the mail, satisfies the due process rights of the putative father even in a case where the mother knows the identity of the father but refuses to name him.

Two other recent cases, however, testify to the lack of clarity that still exists today regarding the treatment of putative fathers' rights. In *Wade v. Catholic Social Services (In re Laney)*, 489 NE2d 551, 12 FLR 1234 (Ind CtApp 1986), the court ruled that a putative father must be given an opportunity to prove paternity at a termination or adoption proceeding and that, if he proves paternity, his paternal rights as an unwed father must be given equal consideration to those of other parents. In *Michael U. v. Jamie B.*, 705 P2d 362, 11 FLR 1598

Copyright © 1987 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.
0148-7922/87/$00.50

(Calif 1985), the California Supreme Court ruled that while the parental rights of a putative father who is not a "presumed father" may be terminated without his consent, such a putative father's rights may only be terminated if it is shown that to place the child in his custody would be detrimental to the child (as opposed to merely using a "best interests" standard), in view of the parental preference rule.

The case law regarding putative fathers' rights clearly suggests that statutory schemes requiring putative fathers to actively assert parental rights in order to ensure notification of adoption proceedings can be constitutionally developed. The onus falls now upon state legislatures to enact statutes such as that establishing the Putative Father's Registry of New York (see N.Y. Domestic Relations Law § 111; N.Y. Social Services Law § 372-c), a statute that clearly works for the "best interests of the child" while providing the putative father with a "reasonable opportunity" to assert his parental rights.

Adoption With Visitation

An issue that has generated great publicity (perhaps disproportionately to its occurrence) and great controversy is the issue of visitation of biological relatives after adoption. While this has remained largely an issue of practice, there have been attempts to amend existing adoption laws to provide for post-adoption visitation. Iowa, for example, considered legislation last year that would have authorized courts to enter visitation provisions, termed "open adoption agreements," into adoption decrees. The legislation was defeated, but only after significant debate.

The inappropriateness of ordering visitation after adoption was recently addressed in *In re C.P.*, 717 P2d 1093, 12 FLR 1377 (Mont 1986), involving a woman who sought visitation with her child who was to be adopted by her sister. The court held that the adoption statute relieves biological parents of all responsibilities and rights, including those of visitation, with respect to their children after adoption.

Decisions regarding petitions for visitation filed by grandparents following stepparent adoptions have clearly asserted that after adoption, biological relatives have no right to visitation. Visitation rights are granted to grandparents under certain circumstances in 49 states. In those states where visitation may be granted after an adoption, none of these statutes is applicable where the adoption is not a stepparent adoption. See 32 Wayne L.Rev. 1 (1985).

In a case involving the maternal grandparents' petition for visitation rights to a child whose parents' parental rights were terminated with their consent, the Alaska Supreme Court ruled that "the 'grandparents' visitation' statute applicable to divorce-related custody cases was [not] intended to indirectly liberalize the strictly worded adoption statute to allow [post-adoption] visitation rights for biological relatives." *In re W.E.G.*, 710 P2d 410, 12 FLR 1103 (1985). The Superior Court had ruled the adoption statutes to be unconstitutional on the ground that they did not provide for post-adoption visitation by biological relatives. The Alaska Supreme Court disagreed. It declared that the statute "clearly provides, however harshly, that the final decree has the effect of making an adopted child a 'stranger' to former relatives," noting the legislative purpose of placing an adopted child in the same status as a biological child. The court added, however, that post-adoption visitation "may well be in the best interests of older children who have developed a demonstrable bond with a biological relative."

In another case involving a biological grandparent's petition for visitation after termination of the biological parent's rights, an Illinois court wrote that "[a]bsent a clear and convincing showing that it would be in the best interests of the children, the underlying policy concerns of 'maximizing the pool of potential adoptive parents' would outweigh a grant of visitation rights to the natural relatives of children whose parents' rights have been terminated. . . . Quite simply, there must be finality and a new beginning for the children whose parents' relationship with them has terminated." *Illinois v. Golden (In re T.G.)*, 498 NE2d 370, 13 FLR 1017 (Ill AppCt 1986).

The public policy goal underlying state adoption statutes is clear—that of placing an adopted child on the same legal footing as a biological child. Thus it is highly unlikely that courts will authorize post-adoption visitation for biological relatives unless "clear and convincing" evidence supports such visitation. Given the clear legislative history of this public policy goal, it is unlikely that state legislatures will alter the statutes to provide for such visitation in other than extraordinary circumstances—so long as adoption agencies continue advocating for sound practice. "There must be a point," the Maryland Court of Special Appeals has declared, "where adoptive parents are presumed, like natural parents, to be acting in their children's best interest without having to prove it in a court of law. That point is not completely clear; but we hold that . . . where [parental rights have been terminated] and a child has been placed for confidential adoption, the courts . . . are not empowered to award visitation" to biological relatives. *L.F.M. v. Department of Social Services*, 507 A2d 1151, 12 FLR 1399 (Md CtSpecApp 1986).

Access To Adoption Records

In all but three states (Alabama, Alaska, Kansas) adoption records remain confidential. Many states have instituted laws that facilitate the exchange of identifying information between birth parents and adult adoptees when all affected parties consent. Twenty states have instituted Mutual Voluntary Consent Adoption Registries, which allow birth parents and adult adoptees to register their desire to meet; if a match is made, then identifying information will be released and a meeting may be facilitated. In an additional eight states, procedures have been legislated allowing the state, or a licensed agency acting for the state, to locate the birth parent to determine if consent will be granted to release identifying information to the adult adoptee. In all 50 states, a court may release identifying information if "good cause" is shown, even in the absence of the consent of all affected parties. The National Committee For Adoption has published a Model Act to Establish a Mutual Consent Adoption Registry.

Copyright © 1987 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.
0148-7922/87/$00.50

Obviously, the controversy unfolds when the party not seeking identifying information has not granted her or his consent. Some adopted persons have attacked the statutory requirement of proving "good cause," asserting that knowledge of their biological family is a liberty interest protected under the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment and that such a requirement violates their protection under the Equal Protection Clause, arguing that adult adoptees are treated as a class differently from other classes based on a statutory scheme that does not serve any compelling state interest. These arguments have been rejected by the courts. In *Alma Society Inc. v. Mellon*, 601 F2d 1225, 5 FLR 2723 (CA2 1979), the court stated that "[t]he New York statutes in providing for release of the information on a 'showing of good cause' do no more than take these relationships [the interests of biological parents and adoptive parents] into account. As such they do not unconstitutionally infringe upon or arbitrarily remove appellants' [adult adoptees'] rights of identity, privacy, or personhood."

Two major challenges to the confidentiality of adoption records were recently decided in Rhode Island and New Jersey. In *In re Assalone*, 512 A2d 1383, 12 FLR 1529 (RI 1986), the court discussed the public policy goals underlying the "good cause" requirement where mutual consent does not exist. "The State's primary concern," it said, "is to provide an effective adoption procedure. Confidentiality enables the natural parent to place the child for adoption with the assurance of anonymity. The natural parents have a right to privacy, and the expectation of privacy arising from the confidentiality statute is constitutionally protected. Such privacy may not be disturbed unless a compelling need for identifying information is proven; thus the petitioner must establish good cause." The case involved the appeal of an agency from a trial court's order finding "good cause" to release identifying information regarding biological parents to the petitioning adult adoptee. The adoptee alleged that her longstanding preoccupation with obtaining information about her birth parents had impaired her psychological functioning. A doctor testified that she was suffering from "genealogical bewilderment"—something he asserted was common to adoptees. The doctor was not willing to state, however, that the adult adoptee's alleged psychological instability resulted from her lack of knowledge regarding her birth parents. The court found that "the record is devoid of any evidence to support the trial justice's conclusion that petitioner had a compelling need for the information she sought," and thus determined that "[i]n the instant case the initial burden of establishing good cause or compelling need has not been sustained." The court refused to "alter the heavy burden of establishing good cause prior to permitting any attempt to contact the natural parents."

In *Backes v. Catholic Family and Community Services*, 509 A2d 283, 12 FLR 1082 (NJ SuperCt 1986), the court was asked to rule on the "good cause" of the claim of an adult adoptee, Backes, who sought identifying information regarding his biological parents in order to satisfy his growing curiosity. He did not assert any claim that this information was needed for health reasons. His daughter had a heart murmur, but Backes testified that the treating doctors did not regard a family history as important for purposes of treating her. He did testify that he has experienced increasing anxiety and frustration in not obtaining the desired information. A physician appearing as an expert witness testified that information sought would be helpful in allowing Backes to resolve his anxiety and to further integrate his identity. Indeed, the court stated that a medical need for parental information may constitute "good cause" for making contact with a birth parent. However, the court concluded that Backes had not demonstrated a compelling need for the information. "[While] there is no showing that . . . a complete medical history is available for Backes," the court wrote, "the credible evidence does not establish that any need exists at this time for additional medical or genetic information."

The court was also asked to consider appointing an intermediary to make contact with the birth parent to determine if consent to release the information could be obtained. "To implement this suggestion this court would have to undertake the regulation of the activities of . . . adoption agencies. This court concludes that such regulation should come from the Legislature."

Two other recent cases are also of interest. In *Ohio ex rel. Wolff v. Donnelly*, 492 NE2d 810, 12 FLR 1401 (Ohio 1986), the court clearly placed a responsibility on the judiciary to actively maintain the confidentiality of adoption records. Two groups, one a "search and support group for adoptees, natural parents, and adoptive parents" and the other a genealogical organization, appealed a lower court's order barring them from disseminating information obtained, perhaps illegally, from confidential adoption records. The court ruled that courts have the power to enforce its duty to maintain the privacy of these records. In *Humphers v. First Interstate Bank*, 696 P2d 527, 11 FLR 1282 (Ore 1985), a physician who helped an adult adoptee learn the identity of her birth mother was held to have breached his professional duty of confidentially, subjecting him to liability for the emotional distress of the birth mother.

"Wrongful Adoption"

This monograph began with a discussion of the difficulties that adoption agencies face remaining financially solvent. It is perhaps appropriate that the final topic discussed involves the current liability insurance crisis. So-called "wrongful adoption" suits have just begun to appear; given that, today, all liability insurance, when written, is written on a claims-made basis—covering only those claims actually brought during the policy period—rather than on an occurrence basis, where a claim will be covered no matter when it is brought, these suits loom ominously on the horizon for adoption agencies.

The Ohio Supreme Court recently ruled in favor of the adoptive parents in a "wrongful adoption" suit filed against a county public adoption agency, awarding a verdict of $125,000. In *Burr v. Stark County Board of Commissioners*, 491 NE2d 1101, 12 FLR 1343 (Ohio 1986), the county agency represented the child in question as a healthy baby boy with no unusual medical or genetic history to the adoptive couple, the Burrs. The

Copyright © 1987 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.
0148-7922/87/$00.50

court determined that, in actuality, the agency was aware of tests showing that the child may have low intelligence and was at risk of disease. The Burrs testified that they would not have adopted the child had the agency truthfully represented his medical condition. "It would be a travesty of justice and a distortion of the truth," the court wrote, "to conclude that deceitful placement of this infant, known by appellants to be at risk, was not actionable when the tragic but hidden realities of the child's infirmities finally came to light." The court went on to state that "[w]e believe it appropriate to comment briefly concerning the breadth of [this] decision. In no way do we imply that adoption agencies are guarantors of their placements. Such a view would be tantamount to imposing an untenable contract of insurance that each child adopted would mature to be healthy and happy. . . . However, just as couples must weigh the risks of becoming natural parents, taking into consideration a host of factors, so too should adoptive parents be allowed to make their decision in an intelligent manner. It is not mere failure to disclose the risks inherent in this child's background which we hold actionable. Rather, it is the deliberate act of misinforming this couple which deprived them of their right to make a sound parenting decision and which led to the compensable injuries."

"Wrongful adoption" cases often involve the willful misrepresentation of facts to would-be adoptors. Indeed, the court in *Burr* is correct to call it a "travesty of justice" to consider such agency behaviors not actionable. These are the types of suits that lend themselves to risk management, for all it requires is responsible and professional practice on the part of the adoption agency. However, the possibility already exists that we may be moving beyond such predictable "wrongful adoption" suits and into the realm that the court in *Burr* calls an "untenable contract of insurance that each child adopted would mature to be healthy and happy." One adoption agency is today facing the possibility of a suit alleging that the adoptive parents were not provided with sufficient information regarding the extent that fetal alcohol syndrome could affect the child. If the agency was indeed negligent, then perhaps such a case was avoidable with good risk management. However, if the agency is guilty of nothing more than an inability to provide complete and exhaustive background information and an inability to predict the future, then the adoptors are indeed attempting to invoke this "untenable contract." How a court will rule, if the case is actually brought, and how courts will rule on similar cases inevitably to be brought in the future, will define the adoption agency for years to come as either a responsible social service provider or as an accountable, "consumer oriented" provider of "goods." An educated guess is that they will be pushed and pulled in both directions by a society unwilling to provide funding while at the same time demanding quality services that are untainted yet also highly sensitive to the needs of "consumers," the ever-growing pool of would-be adoptors. The availability, or lack thereof, of liability insurance will have much to do with the direction in which adoption agencies are forced to lean.

Conclusion

This review of recent significant judicial developments suggests that some areas of adoption practice are less likely to be threatened than others. The courts seem to be generally supportive of sound agency practice in the areas of putative fathers' rights, visitation after termination of parental rights, and generally protective of birth parents' rights to privacy in making adoption plans.

Two other areas are less certain. First, the appropriate ruling in a case involving "wrongful adoption" based on deception may be extended to cases where agencies could not know about information that could negatively affect the potential development of a child. Second, the complex issues involved in financing and delivering services to adopted children, birth parents and their families, and prospective adoptive parents are likely to be unresolved in the near future.

The judicial developments discussed herein, while major, are not the only ones impacting adoption. It is predictable that courts and legislatures will be challenged to maintain and perfect the evolving institution of adoption—an institution that still has a substantial amount of stability, but which is increasingly subject to pressures that could harm it by diverting it from its essential tasks of serving children, birth parents, and those interested in adopting.

Copyright © 1987 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

0148-7922/87/$00.50

BIRTHPARENT ISSUES

The next three chapters cover issues of importance to birthparents: counseling, the biological father's rights, how well birthmothers do after they decide to place the baby for adoption.

39. Adoption Counseling

Women and teens faced with an unplanned pregnancy often need a variety of services including: counseling, housing, medical services, financial assistance, educational and employment services, legal services, etc. Each individual has different needs depending on her age, level of maturity, relationships with family, friends and the father of the baby, economic status, physical condition, etc. A well trained pregnancy counselor can help her to look at her situation realistically to determine what services she will need, what resources she can draw upon and what decisions are best for her and her child.

Many counselors believe that adoption is often the best option for pregnant unmarried women. However, that belief is often not translated into practice because of counselors' belief that women are not interested in pursuing adoption. Dr. Edmund Mech in a study funded by OAPP, "Orientations of Pregnancy Counselors Toward Adoption," found that

- few counselors believe that teens want information about adoption;
- the accuracy rate of counselor information about adoption was only about 60 percent;
- nearly 40 percent of the counseling available to pregnant teens fails to include the adoption option, even though the majority of counselors believe adoption is the preferred choice over teen parenting; and
- the notion that adoption constitutes a form of prevention of serious problems for both the teen and her child has not been incorporated into pregnancy counseling theory.

Friends, family and society in general often place a tremendous amount of pressure on women to choose parenting over adoption. Teens are encouraged by friends to "keep" the cute little baby with promises of babysitting, etc. Parents of teens receive pressure from their friends to stand by their daughter and support her in raising their grandchild. Some teens also fantasize about having a child of their own to provide them with love or see motherhood as a transition to adulthood.

Women in their twenties and thirties often experience more intense pressure from family and peers. Because they may be in a better position to parent than a teen because of age, job, etc. they may be judged more harshly at "not accepting responsibility for their actions". They may also decide to parent this child to prove that the pregnancy was not a mistake. Or as the woman gets older, she may have concerns about her biological clock "ticking away" without another opportunity to parent. Women in this age range also often have more difficulty finding appropriate services because most maternity programs focus on the needs of pregnant teenagers. Smithlawn Home in Lubbock, TX is one of the few maternity homes in the country who will take "older" women and women with children.

The reasons mentioned above are only some of the many issues which may be driving a young woman to parent, but may not be "good" reasons to choose that option. Whether a young woman decides on adoption or parenting, she should have the opportunity to explore her motivations so that they do not interfere later in a negative way. Some of the issues pregnancy counselors should explore with every pregnant woman include:

- the circumstances surrounding her pregnancy
- a realistic assessment of her needs and resources, currently and in the future
- which needs of her child she can fill (while an infant and as the child grows older)
- which of her needs she thinks will be filled by her child
- the opinions of others and the importance of those opinions in her decision
- what her future will be like if she chooses adoption as compared with other choices
- the importance of informed family support in her decision and the consequences of her decision on others
- the involvement of the baby's father in the planning process, including a discussion of his rights
- the necessity for good prenatal care, avoidance of smoking and drugs during pregnancy, and the possibility of residential maternity home care
- a financial appraisal, including availability of free medical care and welfare
- the woman's role in selecting the type of adoptive home in which her child will be placed
- her options in revoking her consent to adoption
- an explanation of the home study process of the adoptive couple and the assurance that the agency will ensure that her baby and the adoptive couple are adjusting well as a requirement prior to finalization of adoption

- information on normal emotional reactions of grief for the loss of her child and the opportunity for post-adoption counselling and supportive services for the birth mother on an "as needed" basis

- the importance for discussing all of the above issues with a reputable public or private agency, since birth mothers involved in independent adoptions rarely have all of the above issues considered on her and her child's behalf

A book which covers the above concepts and is very useful to pregnancy counselors who provide decision-making counseling to their clients is The Adoption Option: A Guidebook for Pregnancy Counselors, published in 1986 by Project Share and available for $5.00 from NCFA, 1930 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

In order to discuss adoption in a positive manner to encourage clients to consider it as one possible option, pregnancy counselors should consider the importance of language in the message they are sending. Marietta Spencer, director of post-legal adoption services at the Children's Home Society of Minnesota, has developed a useful guidebook which stresses the importance of using positive adoption terms in adoption counseling (Spencer, 1982). Some of these positive and negative terms are as follows:

Positive Language	Negative Language
• Making an adoption plan	• Giving away your child
• Arranging for adoption	• Relinquishing your baby
• Finding a family to parent your child	• Putting your child up for adoption
• Birth mother; biological mother	• Real mother; natural mother
• Father of the baby; biological father	• Real father; natural father
• Adoptive parents	• Not the real parents
• Child of unmarried parents	• Illegitimate child

Adoption counselors should not only make a deliberate effort to use these positive terms, but also plan the physical environment and special activities, including:

- have a neat office with posters that mention the adoption option,

- have brochures and books available on adoption, and

- plan special activities such as video-tapes, slides, films, and speakers (including birthmothers who made adoption plans, adopted adults, and adoptive parents).

The provision of confidential maternity home services continue to be essential for young women considering adoption. Pressure to parent by peers, family members, and others makes it difficult for many teens to follow through on their plans for adoption. Maternity homes can offer a very important "time-out" for a family in crisis and a safe, supportive environment for young women to make decisions about parenting and adoption based on a realistic examination of their needs and the needs of their children.

In 1988, U.S. Senator Gordon Humphrey (R-NH) conducted a survey of 95 maternity service providers serving a total of 98,341 clients (Unmarried Parents Today, 1988), and found that 93 percent offered adoption counseling and referral services, 61 percent did adoption placements, and 47 percent offered residential maternity home care. Over 40 percent of the responding agencies had an adoption placement rate over 25 percent, with the majority of those agencies reporting residential services. Adoption counseling is doing well, but there is room for improvement.

Useful tools are available to implement adoption counseling activities. An "Adoption - A Loving Option" campaign which includes public service announcements and billboard ads is available from Catholic Family Services, Inc., 1522 S. Van Buren, P.O. Box 15127, Amarillo, TX 79105. Other tools are available from NCFA; see the list of publications available from the NCFA Bookstore at the end of this Factbook. NCFA has compiled a list of resources which are useful in discussing the adoption option.

It should come as little surprise that adoption is often neglected by individual counselors since the pregnancy field as a whole generally gives it little attention as a solution. Three major studies illustrate the problem. In Risking the Future: Adolescent Sexuality, Pregnancy, and Childbearing (National Research Council, 1987), the coverage of the adoption issue is woefully inadequate. While the report consistently mentions adoption as an alternative to adolescent parenthood, adoption is usually characterized as an option of last resort. The report neither endorses nor encourages adoption as a course of action that might be in the best interests of the child and the teenage parents, despite important published research that shows major benefits to birthmothers who make an adoption plan for their children. The NRC report also fails to point out the literature on how pregnancy counselors often short-circuit discussion of adoption. In Teenage Pregnancy: An Advocate's Guide to the Numbers (Children's Defense Fund, 1988), 50 pages of useful statistics are presented on the teen pregnancy rate, teen birth rate, teen out-of-wedlock birth rate, teen abortion rate, teen abortion ratio, teen out-of-wedlock birth ratio, male/female ratio for sexual activity, and black/white ratio for contraceptive use. Furthermore, six solutions are recommended: 1) education, 2) jobs, 3) non-academic opportunities for success, 4) family life education and life planning, 5) comprehensive adolescent health services, and 6) making teen pregnancy a national and community priority. But adoption counselling for pregnant teens is not presented as a solution, and factors in adoption choices made by them are not discussed. Finally, a bilingual report entitled El Embarazo Precoz: Childbearing Among Hispanic Teenagers in the United States (Fennelly, 1988) is guilty of the same omission. There is no mention of the "adoption option" as a solution, despite extended discussions of abortion and out-of-wedlock childbearing.

To be sure, the relatively scanty state and national data on adoption partially accounts for the dearth of adoption information in these otherwise excellent reports. However, NCFA presented a wealth of adoption data in its first Adoption Factbook (NCFA, 1985) but almost none of it is addressed in the aforementioned reports. The National Research Council and the Children's Defense Fund should join NCFA in encouraging the Federal government to routinely collect such data from all states. Adoption information would be extremely useful in NRC and CDF publications which address the topics of teenage pregnancy and childbearing. Abortion and single parenting need extensive discussion, but not to the exclusion of the "adoption option".

40. Birthmothers Who Place Their Children For Adoption

Research supports the positive benefits of adoption for both birthmothers and adopted children (discussed in Chapter 55). Bachrach (1986) considered the consequences to the mother who makes an adoption plan for her child and used statistical techniques to remove the effects of differences in age, race, education, etc. Text table 40, adapted from Bachrach, indicates that birthmothers of premarital pregnancies who place their children for adoption, when compared with mothers of babies who remain unmarried, generally:

- are less likely to live in poverty,
- are less likely to receive public assistance, and
- are more likely to complete high school.

Text table 40. Consequences to the Unmarried Mother Related to Adoption, Keeping the Baby and Not Marrying, Keeping the Baby and Marrying, and Pregnancy Loss: 1982 National Survey of Family Growth

Percentages of mothers with characteristics	Adoption plan	Baby kept by unmarried mother	Baby kept by married mother	Pregnancy loss[a]
Live in poverty	23	35	22	18
Receive public assistance	26	45	22	20
Complete high school	80	61	73	80
Ever married	73	51	100	57

[a] Includes fetal loss and abortion

Another reputable study compared 146 birth mothers who chose adoption for their children with 123 mothers who decided to rear their child as single parents (McLaughlin et.al., 1988). Women who chose adoption tended to:

- be more likely to complete vocational training,
- have higher educational aspirations,
- delay marriage longer,
- be employed 12 months after birth,
- live in higher income households after birth,
- not become pregnant again soon,

- not resolve subsequent pregnancies by abortion, and
- be no more likely to suffer negative psychological consequences than mothers who rear as single parents.

In conclusion, birthmothers who decide to place their children for adoption tend to be white, young, and come from stable middle-class homes (see text table 34, Percentage of Premarital Births Placed For Adoption: U.S., 1982 in Chapter 34 "Teenage Birthparents"). Some time after they make the placement, their socioeconomic status appears better and they are no more likely to suffer negative psychological consequences than birthmothers who choose single parenting.

41. Rights of the Biological Father

Although legal adoption tries to balance the rights of all involved parties, the rights of the putative father were ignored in the past. During the past 10-15 years, the courts have strengthened the prerogatives of the father as one of the steps in ensuring the legality and finality of an adoption.

A 1972 landmark decision (Stanley v. State of Illinois; 405 U.S. 645) forced agencies and courts to ensure that fathers have the opportunity to assert their rights. Peter Stanley fathered two children during the 18 years he had intermittently lived with the mother. When the mother died, the children were declared wards of the State over his objections and removed from his custody. The court held that Stanley deserved the same due process and equal protections as married fathers.

A 1979 decision (Caban v. Mohammed, U.S. 380) similarly strengthened paternal rights. Caban fathered two children but did not marry the mother. The mother maintained child custody, and later married a man named Mohammed, who petitioned to adopt the two children. His petition was granted based on a New York statute which required that a mother may block any proposed adoption simply by withholding consent, but a father of a child born out of wedlock may do so only if he can prove that the proposed adoption will not be in the best interests of the child. The court overturned the New York law as unconstitutional, but allowed that parental rights to veto an adoption may be handled with varying degrees of respect based on the degree to which the parent has exercised his or her parental rights. This decision also stated that nothing shall preclude a State from withholding the right to veto an adoption from a father who has made no attempt to assert his parental rights.

As a result, the State of New York created its putative fathers' registry, (NY Domestic Relations Law #111 and NY Social Services Law #372-C; 1979). Men who wish to assert their parental rights register to be notified of any adoption proceedings. Categories of fathers who do not have to register and who will automatically be notified of any adoption proceedings include:

(a) any man adjudicated to be the father

(b) any man who was married to the mother six months subsequent to the birth of the child

(c) any man who is living with the mother

(d) any man named as the father on the child's birth certificate, and

(e) any man otherwise identified by the mother as the child's father.

A putative father who does not belong to one of the above categories and who fails to register may lose his right to notice. A 1983 Supreme Court decision (Lehr v. Robertson; 463 U.S. 248) upheld the then current New York laws, and asserted that the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution does not prevent a State from according two parents different rights if only one parent has established a custodial relationship with the child.

In Quilloin v. Walcott (434 U.S. 246; 1978), Quilloin had not married the mother during their 11 years of living together, and tried to block the adoption of his children by the mother's new husband. The State of Georgia overruled his motion to veto the adoption because the veto would not be in the best interests of the children, and that the State could permissably give less veto authority to Quilloin than to a married or divorced father.

A recent decision (In re Karen A.B.; Del Sup Ct, No. 325, 7/28/86) found that the father did not have a due process right to notification because the unwed mother refused to identify him when relinquishing the child. Holding up the adoption until the father was notified would have meant perpetual foster care for the child. In two biological father's rights cases (MEMO, 1988), a father with the AIDS virus has won visitation with his children and a putative father who had partaken in "pre-birth acts of abandonment" must still consent for an adoption to proceed. The Indiana Court of Appeals, 4th District, reversed a lower court ruling terminating the visitation rights of a father who had tested positive for the AIDS virus but who did not actually have AIDS (Stewart v. Stewart; Ind CtApp 4thDist, #49A04-8702-CV-42, 4/20/88). In Florida, the 5th District Court of Appeal has overturned a lower court ruling that the consent to adoption of a putative father is unnecessary when that father failed to provide any support during the mother's pregnancy even though the putative father was well aware of the pregnancy. Even in cases of such "pre-birth abandonment", the Court of Appeal ruled, the consent of the biological father is necessary (Roe v. Doe; Fla 5thDist Ct.App, #87-1277, 3/24/88). Another relevant court case involved a putative father who did not provide for the mother during pregnancy and paid nothing for the mother or child's care. Because of his abandonment, the Oklahoma Supreme Court (In re Baby Boy D.; Okla Sup Ct., No. 62024, 11/15/85) ruled that the unwed mother had exclusive right to consent to the child's adoption. Recently, the Third Circuit Court of Appeal of Louisiana (Adoption of Baby Doe; 492 So. 2d 508; 1986) determined that the right of an unmarried biological father to oppose an adoption is not equivalent to his right to veto the proposed adoption.

These few court decisions just reviewed give some notion of the extent of prerogatives of the biological father. A more through discussion of the legal issues affecting adoption appear Chapter 38. The lack of clarity in this area of adoption law, as evidenced by the sampling of court decisions presented here, is why NCFA urges states to pass laws similar to the constitutionally-sound New York putative fathers' registry. In addition, agencies are urged to involve biological fathers in counseling and adoption planning to the most appropriate and possible extent.

ADOPTIVE PARENT ISSUES

The next dozen chapters focus on topics of major interest to adoptive parents including infertility, who adopts, foreign adoption, risks in independent adoptions, transcultural adoption, foster care, and adoption disruption and dissolution.

42. Infertility and Reproductive Technology

Couples seeking to adopt have often been frustrated with infertility problems and have tried new reproductive technologies to have children biologically. Americans spent about $1 billion on medical care to combat infertility in 1987, according to a May 1988 report prepared by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA). OTA is a non-partisan analytical agency that serves the U.S. Congress. Its purpose is to aid Congress in dealing with the complex and often highly technical issues that increasingly confront our society.

After trying various avenues of treatment, about half of the many thousands of infertile couples will ultimately be successful. OTA estimates that 150,000 to 250,000 of the 3.8 million babies (5 percent) born annually in the United States are conceived with the aid of infertility services. About nine in every ten couples seeking help are treated with conventional medical or surgical therapies, including ovulation induction, surgery, and artificial insemination. These are still the most widespread and successful approaches to overcoming **infertility**--the couple's inability to conceive after 12 months of intercourse without contraception, and **impaired fecundity**--couples who are non-surgically sterile, or for whom it would be difficult or dangerous to have a baby (OTA, 1988). A useful chapter entitled "Stepping Stones - A Program for Infertile Couples" is contained in Johnston's 1984 book, An Adoptor's Advocate.

While the number of infertile couples remained constant at about 4.5 million couples from 1965 to 1982 (Mosher, 1988) the number of visits to physicians for infertility services rose from about 600,000 in 1965 to about 1.6 million in 1982. Costs to couples receiving treatment vary widely--a full diagnostic evaluation costs $2,500 to $3,000. In vitro fertilization (IVF) costs about $5,000 for one treatment cycle (OTA, 1988). IVF tends to be an intense emotional experience for husbands and wives, and the chance of achieving a successful pregnancy with this procedure is only about ten percent (NFPRHA, 1987). Only 5 States (Arkansas, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Texas) have required that insurers cover IVF costs. However, because of concerns about experimentation on human embryos, there has been a de facto moratorium on federal funding of IVF research since 1980 although many researchers claim this moratorium has stifled the growth of new knowledge (OTA, 1988).

There are many reproductive technologies, procedures, and drugs that offer help to infertile couples. Because adoption waiting lists can be long, many couples are trying these technologies given the reality that they may not be able to adopt a healthy infant. NCFA certainly cannot offer medical advice on these technologies, and some may claim they involve questionable ethical issues, but lists them simply to inform couples of the many options they may have available if they are infertile or have impaired fecundity. These are listed alphabetically, and were selected from the OTA report.

Artificial insemination (AI): The introduction of sperm into a woman's vagina or uterus by noncoital methods, for the purpose of conception.

Clomiphene citrate (CC): A nonsteroidal estrogen-like compound that binds to estrogen receptors in the body. CC is a commonly prescribed fertility drug, primarily used in patients with oligomenorrhea to promote increased gonadotropin secretion and stimulation of the ovary.

Cryopreservation: The preservation of sperm, embryos, and oocytes by freezing them at extremely low temperatures.

Danazol: A synthetic derivative of testosterone used in the treatment of endometriosis.

Diagnostic tests: Tests performed to evaluate reproductive health. In women, this can involve indirect indicators (menstrual irregularity, hormone levels, cervical mucus) and direct ones (tissue biopsy, laparoscopy, ultrasound). In men, tests include semen analysis, endocrine evaluation, testicular biopsy, and evaluation of sexual dysfunction.

Donor gametes: Eggs or sperm donated by individuals for medically assisted conception.

Embryo donation: The transfer from one woman to another of an embryo obtained by artificial insemination and lavage or, more commonly, by IVF.

Embryo lavage: A flushing of the uterus to recover a preimplantation embryo.

Embryo transfer: The transfer of an in vitro fertilized egg from its laboratory dish into the uterus of a woman.

Endometrial biopsy: The microscopic examination of a sample of cells, obtained from the lining of the uterus between days 22 and 25 of a normal 28-day menstrual cycle, in order to evaluate ovulatory function.

Fertility drugs: Compounds used to treat ovulatory dysfunction. These include clomiphene citrate, human gonadotropins, bromocriptine, glucocorticoids, and progesterone.

Fimbrioplasty: A surgical procedure to correct partial restriction of the fallopian tube.

Gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT): A technique of medically assisted conception in which mature oocytes are surgically removed from a woman's body and then reintroduced, together with sperm, through a catheter threaded into the fallopian tubes, where it is hoped fertilization will take place.

Glucocorticoids: Hormones naturally produced by the adrenal glands. Synthetic glucocorticoids are used to treat ovulatory dysfunction caused by adrenal disorders.

Gonadotropin: Hormone that stimulates the testes or ovaries. Examples are follicle-stimulating hormone, human chorionic gonadotropin, human menopausal gonadotropin, and luteinizing hormone. These can be administered in cases of ovulatory dysfunction to directly stimulate the ovary.

Hamster-oocyte penetration test: A test that evaluates the ability of human sperm to penetrate an ovum by incubating sperm with hamster oocytes that have had their outer layer removed. Normal sperm will penetrate the eggs. The reliability and significance of this test are controversial.

Human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG): A hormone secreted by the embryo that maintains the corpus luteum when pregnancy occurs. This hormone can be extracted from the urine of pregnant women and can be injected to stimulate ovaries and tests.

Human menopausal gonadotropin (hMG): Hormone that can be extracted from the urine of menopausal women and injected to stimulate ovaries and testes.

Hyperprolactinemia: The overproduction of the pituitary hormone prolactin, which can contribute to infertility. The causes of this condition are diverse and poorly understood. It can be treated with bromocriptine.

Hysterosalpingogram: An x-ray study of the female reproductive tract in which dye is injected into the uterus while x rays are taken showing the outline of the uterus and the degree of openness of the fallopian tubes.

Hysteroscopy: Direct visualization of the interior of the uterus in order to evaluate any abnormalities that may be present. This is done by inserting a hysteroscope (a long, narrow, illuminated tube) through the cervix into the expanded uterus. Surgical procedures may also be performed using this method.

In vitro fertilization (IVF): A technique of medically assisted conception (sometimes referred to as "test tube" fertilization) in which mature oocytes are removed from a woman's ovary and fertilized with sperm in a laboratory. (See embryo transfer.)

In vivo fertilization: The fertilization of an egg by a sperm within a woman's body. The sperm may be introduced by artificial insemination or by coitus.

Intracervical insemination: Artificial insemination technique in which sperm are placed in or near the cervical canal of the female reproductive tract, using a syringe or a catheter, for the purpose of conception.

Intraperitoneal insemination: An artificial insemination technique in which sperm are introduced into the body cavity between the uterus and the rectum, after ovulation has been induced, for the purpose of conception.

Intrauterine insemination: Artificial insemination technique in which sperm are deposited directly in the uterine cavity.

Laparoscopy: Direct visualization of the ovaries and the exterior of the fallopian tubes and uterus by means of a laparoscope (a long, narrow, illuminated instrument) introduced through a small surgical incision below the navel, to evaluate any abnormalities. Surgical procedures may also be performed using this method.

Laparotomy: A surgical incision through the abdominal wall, larger than that used in a laparoscopy, to allow visualization of reproductive structures for evaluation or surgery.

Microsurgery: Fine, delicate surgical procedures performed with the aid of a microscope or other magnifying apparatus. In cases of infertility, microsurgery is used to repair fallopian tubes in women and blockages of the reproductive tract in men.

Ovulation induction: Treatment of ovulation dysfunction caused by such disorders as amenorrhea, oligomenorrhea, and LPD, using drugs that induce ovulation. These so-called fertility drugs include CC and gonadotropins. Ovulation induction is also used as part of the AI, IVF, and GIFT techniques.

Ovulation prediction kits: Over-the-counter hormone monitoring kits that employ the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay procedure to measure the mid-cycle increase in LH that indicates ovulation is taking place.

Ovum donor: A woman who donates an ovum or ova to another woman.

Post-coital test: Microscopic analysis of cervical mucus within a few hours of timed intercourse in order to observe and evaluate the interaction of sperm, semen, and cervical mucus. The oldest and most widely practiced post-coital test is the Sims-Huhner test.

Salpingostomy: A surgical attempt to recreate the normal fallopian opening and fimbria function in cases of complete occlusion of the fallopian tubes.

Semen analysis: Evaluation of the basic characteristics of sperm and semen, such as appearance, volume, liquefaction and viscosity, and sperm concentration and motility. The presence of bacterial infection and immunological disorders can also be determined by semen analysis. It is the fundamental diagnostic method used to evaluate male infertility.

Sperm washing: The dilution of a semen sample with various tissue culture media in order to separate viable sperm from the other components of semen.

Surrogate gestational mother: A woman who gestates and carries to term an embryo to which she is not genetically related, with the intention of relinquishing the child at birth.

Surrogate mother: A woman who is artificially inseminated and carries an embryo to term, with the intention of relinquishing the child at birth.

Testicular biopsy: The excision of a small sample of testicular tissue for microscopic evaluation to determine sperm production.

Ultrasound: The use of high-frequency sound waves focused on the body to obtain a video image of internal tissues, organs, and structures. Ultrasound is particularly useful for in utero examinations of a developing fetus, for evaluation of the development of ovarian follicles, and for the guided retrieval of oocytes for IVF and GIFT.

Uterine lavage: A flushing of the uterus to recover a preimplantation embryo.

Vasography: An x-ray examination of the vas deferens by injection of dye through a small incision. X rays are taken giving an outline of the sperm transport system.

43. Infertility and the "Adoption Demand"

NCFA estimates that there are at least one million American couples who are subfecund, will not be successful in having the future birth which they desire, and may wish to consider adoption rather than remain childless or be satisfied with the number of children they may already have. This number may only represent the "tip of the iceberg" because many of the 25 million couples without impaired fecundity may be interested in adoption, but are discouraged due to long waits and restrictive criteria for prospective adoptive parents.

About 4.5 million women and married couples within the reproductive ages had impaired fecundity in 1982. Impaired fecundity means that it was difficult or dangerous for them to conceive a baby or carry a baby to term. Of these, 1.9 million were childless, and the other 2.6 million had one or more births before they became infertile. Of these 4.5 million women with impaired fecundity, 2.7 million wanted a future birth, as shown below (Mosher, 1987):

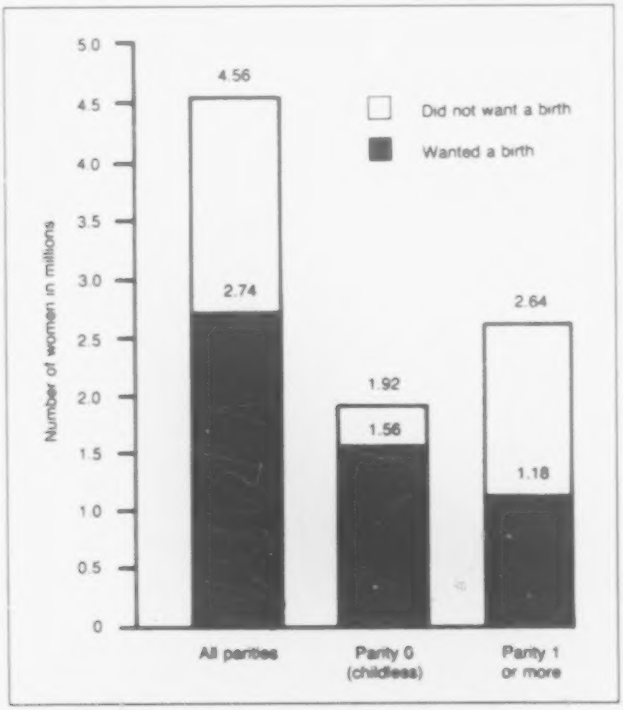


Figure 1. Number of women who had impaired fecundity, by parity and whether or not they wanted a future birth: United States, 1982

These figures are the basis for NCFA's estimate of how many couples would like to adopt. Of the 2.7 million couples with impaired fecundity who would like to have a future birth, perhaps half will be successful using methods described by the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA, 1988), and reviewed in the previous chapter on "Infertility and Reproductive Technology". This leaves about 1.3 million couples with impaired fecundity who will not be successful in having a future birth. Of course, impaired fecundity is strongly related to age, as shown below (Mosher, 1987):

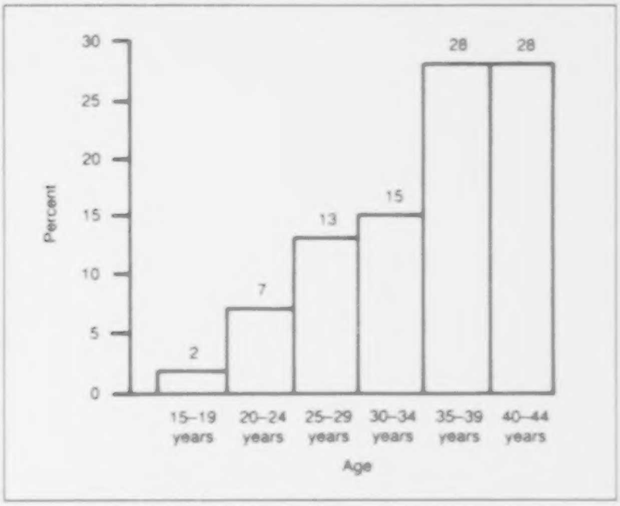


Figure 2. Percent of women (excluding the surgically sterile) who had impaired fecundity, by age: United States, 1982

Older women (over 30 years of age) are more than twice as likely as are younger women to have impaired fecundity, and will have been less likely to have been successful in having a future birth, but are simultaneously more likely to already have one or more children. Similarly, the younger women are more likely not to have children yet, and to be more successful in having a future birth. Assuming that these two countervailing factors roughly balance each other out for younger and older women; the ultimate demand for adoption may be roughly the same across the age groups. Thus, 1.3 million couples may constitute the "adoption demand". Of the 1.3 million couples with impaired fecundity who will not be successful in having a future birth, perhaps 0.3 million may decide to rule out adoption due to satisfaction with a childless lifestyle or the number of children they already have. This leaves 1.0 million couples who may constitute the "adoption demand". This may be a minimum estimate because some of the 25 million couples without impaired fecundity may also wish to adopt for altruistic reasons, or because they have become emotionally attached to their foster care child. The number of these couples is unknown, but is likely to be substantial in relation to the one million couples with impaired fecundity who will not ultimately have a child. Many of these 25 million couples would be added to the adoption demand if the number of adoptable children would increase, and agencies would then liberalize their eligibility criteria as a result. Furthermore, the estimate of at least one million couples wishing to adopt does not include single persons, a sizeable number of whom may also wish to adopt.

Of course, we are comparing a prevalence estimate of one million wishing to adopt with an incidence estimate of 51,157 children adopted per year. Since one-twentieth of the prevalence wish for adoption is "satisfied" each year, one might think that the prevalence is getting smaller each year (i.e., by 51,157). However, each year, new couples move into the infertile group wishing to adopt, so the prevalence estimate may remain fairly constant from year to year.

Therefore, NCFA asserts that most of this "adoption demand" is still not being satisfied. Based on NCFA's 1986 data on domestic adoptions, 51,157 couples or singles adopted an unrelated child (half were infants; one-fourth were special needs children). Another 10,019 adopted a foreign born child in 1986. This still leaves nearly one million with an unsatisfied "adoption demand" which is not likely to change much with time. More careful research on this topic is needed to refine the estimate of the "adoption demand", but no one can dispute the fact that the availability of adoptable children falls far short of the number of prospective adoptive parents.

Recent increase for infertility services should not be construed as an increase in the "adoption demand". Prior to 1980, Americans visited their doctors about one million times per year for infertility problems, and this increased to two million visits in 1983. However, these infertility visits have doubled for two reasons: 1) the percentage of infertile couples who seek help has increased, and 2) more can be done now for infertile couples as endocrinology and infertility specialties have expanded (Mosher, 1987). For a more complete discussion of the latest treatment methods, see the previous chapter in this Factbook.

44. Who Adopts? Profile of Adoptive Parents

Bachrach (1986) of the National Center for Health Statistics published a report on adoption from the 1973 and 1982 National Surveys of Family Growth. This survey is the only source of nationally representative data on both unrelated adoptions and adoption plans, and the context in which they occur. The statistics refer to children adopted or placed for adoption by women aged 15-44 in 1973 and 1982. Bachrach's work updates Bonham's work (1977) based on the 1973 NSFG.

The following text table is adapted from Bachrach (1986):

Percentage of ever-married women 15-44 years of age who had adopted a nonstep child

Age at interview	1973	1982
15-24	0.4	0.4
25-29	1.2	0.9
30-34	2.6	3.0
35-39	3.1	2.1
40-44	4.1	4.2
Family income		
Below poverty level	1.6	1.8
100%-199% of poverty level	0.7	1.9
200% of poverty level	2.7	2.3
Education		
Less than 12 years	1.7	1.3
12 years	2.1	2.2
13 years or more	2.7	2.3
Fecundity		
Sterile	3.3	3.3
Contraceptively sterile	2.1	1.1
Noncontraceptively sterile	5.6	7.5
Subfecund	5.7	5.1
Fecund	0.8	0.9
Parity		
No births	5.8	6.5
One birth	2.8	2.0
Two births	1.2	1.2
Three + births	0.8	0.6
Race		
White	2.2	2.2
Black	1.8	1.5
TOTAL	**2.2**	**2.1**

The percent of ever married women aged 15-44 who had ever adopted a nonstep child was the same--slightly more than 2 percent--in both 1973 and 1982, despite the fact that the 1973 survey was conducted shortly after the annual number of adoptions had peaked in 1970. By age 44, the percentage who had ever adopted a nonstep child was just over 4 percent in both survey periods. In both 1973 and 1982, the percent who have adopted is primarily a function of age (older women have had longer in which to seek and obtain an adopted child), parity (childless women are more likely to have adopted than mothers), and the ability to bear children (sterile women--excluding those sterilized for contraceptive reasons--are more likely to have adopted than fecund women). Subfecund women also tended to have adopted at higher rates than fecund women in 1982 (5 compared with 1 percent), as they had in 1973. The percent who had adopted was significantly higher among women with 13 years of education or more than for women with less than 12 years.

Differences by race in the percent of ever married women who had adopted a child were nonsignificant in both 1973 and 1982. This finding contrasts with the much lower percent of black than white teenagers who place premarital births for adoption, a pattern which suggests that the pool of black infants available for adoption might be much smaller than that of white infants. The apparent inconsistency may be accounted for by any or all of the following explanations: (1) birth rates to unmarried women were over four times as high for black women as white women in 1982: thus the smaller percent of babies placed for adoption by black women is offset by a relatively larger pool of premarital births; (2) a smaller proportion of adoptions by black women are unrelated infant adoptions (35 percent compared with 76 percent among white women), so black women are less likely to adopt babies relinquished for adoption by their birthmothers, and are more likely to adopt older, related children; and (3) black women are less likely than white women to have ever married, so the pool of black women who are in a position to adopt is smaller.

The original text of Bachrach's work should be reviewed for a more thorough discussion of the NSFGs, and particularly for a discussion of large sampling errors in the estimates presented because adoption was found to be a relatively rare event in the surveys. Adoption data from the 1988 NSFG should become available late in 1990, and so NCFA will update this important topic then.

NCFA is often asked, "What are adoption agency requirements for adopting a baby?" Adoption agencies vary, but here is a general overview of what agencies look for and at:

- Other children in the home?--Most adoption agencies prefer to serve couples who have an infertility problem. And agencies usually prefer to place a baby with a family that has one or no children. In fact, many agencies encourage families to adopt a second child so that children will have siblings.

- Age?--Generally, agencies look for adoptive parents who are no more than 40 years older than the child to be adopted, hoping to ensure a long and happy relationship between child and parents.

- Marital status?--Most adoption agencies place babies only with married couples. There are so many qualified infertile couples seeking to adopt a baby, perhaps 50-100 for every available baby, that agencies prefer two-parent families. And most birthmothers express a desire for their child to be adopted by a married couple.

- Health?--Adoption agencies usually request medical reports. Healthy, though not perfect, adoptive parents are what they look for.

- House?--A good environment for the child to live in is what agencies seek. This means a good home, not necessarily that you have to own a house.

- Religion?--If an adoption agency is sponsored by a sectarian organization, such as Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal, Jewish, Latterday Saints (Mormon), or Methodist, such agencies frequently serve members of their own faith on a priority basis.

- Two parents working outside the home?--Some agencies prefer that one parent be home with the newly adopted child for at least several months. For other agencies, an appropriate day care plan is the issue.

- Income?--Adoption agencies often look at recent tax returns or other financial information. The agencies want to be sure that the adoptive parents are in a position to adequately provide for the child. They are not judging adoptive parents on their gross income so much as how they manage the income they have.

45. Foreign Adoptions

Intercountry adoption began as a solution to emergency situations but is now regarded as an adoption alternative in its own right for children in foreign lands who need homes as well as for thousands of American couples and single persons. After World War II, children from Europe, orphaned or abandoned because of the war, were brought to the United States for adoption, but European adoptions are now very infrequent. Following the Korean War, Americans began to adopt children from Korea, a trend which gathered momentum and peaked two years ago (see tables 13 and 15 of this FACTBOOK). The Vietnamese babylift of 1975 was also a response to an emergency situation.

It is the experience of Korean adoption, and the example set by the Korean government in both facilitating the adoption of Korean children by U.S. citizens and in developing its own domestic adoption program, that is perhaps most instructive. In 1956, moved by the plight of thousands of Amerasian children fathered and then abandoned by American G.I.s, Harry and Bertha Holt founded the Holt Adoption Program out of their home in Creswell, Oregon. They worked to bring many of these children to the United States to be placed in permanent adoptive homes and thus began the modern international adoption system. Today the Holt Adoption Program, now called Holt International Children's Services and headquartered in Eugene, Oregon, places over 1,000 children a year with adoptive families, including children from Korea, India, Thailand, the Phillipines, and Latin America.

In discussing adoption between countries, it is critical to look at the experience over the last thirty years. Most countries in the world, with the exception of a handful in Western Europe, have substantial numbers of children whose parents are unwilling or unable to care for them or who have physical or emotional handicapping conditions which led to their becoming available for adoption. Various nations have responded to this child welfare crisis in less than ideal ways. Some nations have been unable or unwilling to address the problem and large numbers of children are trying to exist on the streets, coping as best they can. Others have tried to care for the children by consigning them to large, poor quality institutions where they are, at best, safely warehoused. Others have attempted to create foster care systems so that a combination of institutional care and care by couples or single adults is offered some of the children. A few have attempted to set up comprehensive child welfare services programs, including domestic adoption programs. And only one--Korea--has set in place a strategy, unique thus far in the world in its scope, whereby it simultaneously works to develop domestic child welfare services, including adoption, while it utilizes international adoption to ensure that children in need of homes currently do not have to wait. Korea recognizes, as do many other countries, that alternatives other than permanent homes or high-quality institutional care are inappropriate. Korea recognizes that children who grow up uncared for and unattended to are likely to be failures in school, to be unemployed, and to drift into crime and dependency. Thus, as Korea's economy has grown and Korea has moved into the ranks of industrialized nations, it has been able to expand its child welfare services so that at the present nearly one-fourth of the children are adopted by Koreans through the domestic program. NCFA believes that other nations should look to the Korean response to the child welfare crisis as a potential model for their own programs (and, in fact, India is rapidly developing a program of its own featuring domestic adoption as a major initial choice). The Korean government closely monitors the programs, utilizing four Korean agencies--Eastern Child Welfare Society, Holt Children's Services, Korea Social Services, and Social Welfare Society. Only these four agencies may arrange the placement of children, and only licensed adoption agencies in other countries may work in countries receiving Korean children.

The relationship between Korean and adoption agencies in other countries does not stop at overseas adoption, however. The Korean government has put much effort into developing its domestic adoption services. Adoption is culturally foreign to many countries. In many ways, adoption is a uniquely American institution, both in history and in prevalence. However, today in Korea, approximately 25 percent of all adopted children are adopted by Korean citizens. All of the adoption agencies in the United States that arrange for the adoption of children from Korea by U.S. citizens also work to improve services, including domestic adoption services, for birthparents, children, and families in Korea. This assistance not only includes financial help but consultation as well. Bethany Christian Services, a large network of adoption agencies headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for example, has been providing funds and expertise to assist Korean service providers to create new, modern child care facilities in a community which focuses on the needs of handicapped children called "Il San".

An accurate picture of the adoption situation in Korea can be acquired by examining data made available by the Korean government. This is quite contrary to the situation in the United States, where no national adoption data is collected by the federal government.

Year	Abandoned Children	Children Born Out-of-Wedlock	Foreign Adoption	Domestic Adoption
1980	8,500	N/A	4,144	3,657
1981	9,138	N/A	4,628	3,267
1982	11,587	7,500	6,434	3,298
1983	12,114	9,518	7,255	3,004
1984	11,430	10,142	7,924	3,000
1985	14,230	10,383	8,837	2,855
1986	13,887	12,035	8,680	2,854
1987	13,304	12,460	7,947	2,382
1988	9,136	12,504	6,463	2,324

Of the 7,947 foreign adoptions in 1987:

- 57.5% (4,562) were born out-of-wedlock
- 21% (1,685) were from institutional care
- 12.8% (1,009) were "special needs"
- 8.7% (691) were from "broken homes"

Age breakdown:

- under age 1: 76%
- age 1 to 3: 9%
- age 3 to 7: 12%
- age 7 to 18: 3%

(Source: Chosen Daily Newspaper, Korea, Feb. 14, 1989)

Intercountry adoption programs are not unique to Korea, however. In 1987, over 800 children from India were placed with U.S. families, over 700 were from Colombia, nearly 600 were from the Phillipines, nearly 300 were from Guatemala, and over 200 were from Chile (see table 14 of this FACTBOOK for a complete listing of major countries of origin).

Adoptions from Central and South America are numerous and can be arranged with ease or, sometimes, can present a very tough road to building a family. Colombia, for example, is a country that has developed a system of overseas placements by licensed adoption agencies that works effectively. Other countries in the region have not developed international adoption as fully.

Depending on the country, adopting from Asia or Latin America may involve traveling to the foreign country. Most parents who travel to the foreign country to meet their adopted child for the first time find the experience extremely rewarding. The trip provides them with a chance to learn of the child's country of origin and culture first hand.

Adoptions from Central and South America can be arranged by working with a licensed agency in the United States, by working with a private intermediary in the United States, or by working directly with an agency, orphanage, or intermediary in the child's country of origin. NCFA recommends working with an experienced and reputable licensed U.S. adoption agency. International adoption is a complex process. Sometimes, agencies and intermediaries in this country lack the experience and expertise to ensure that adoption from a foreign country is a positive experience. Sometimes, intermediaries operating in foreign countries may be inexperienced or downright unscrupulous.

Parents who adopt children from other countries need to recognize that their children will have a different and unique cultural heritage and will usually have a racial and ethnic heritage that is different than their own. Whether a child is adopted from Asia, Central America, South America, or Europe, two things are always the same. One, adoptive parents must meet all the requirements of U.S. law, specifically the requirements of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services. These requirements, which include a pre-placement homestudy, are outlined elsewhere in this FACTBOOK. Second, almost all adoptions of foreign born children by U.S. citizens work out extremely well. Research into transracial and transcultural adoptions shows that these children do very well and are as happy as their non-adopted peers.

Many families who adopt children from other countries find that support groups of other parents who have adopted from overseas are very helpful and supportive, both for them and their children. A complete list of adoptive parent support groups is found in Part V of this FACTBOOK. In addition, NCFA recommends the following books concerning international adoption:

> Birth is More Than Once, Wilkinson. This book is the result of observations of Korean children adopted by American families. It provides valuable insights for practitioners and adoptive families about what it means to be adopted internationally.

A Parent's Guide to Intercountry Adoption, Taylor, revised by Laning. Contributions by experienced parents discussing the challenge of adopting a foreign child of different heritage, initial adjustment, etc. Full of information.

The Immigration of Adopted and Prospective Adoptive Children, Immigration and Naturalization Services. This is the basic primer for anyone thinking about adopting a child from outside the United States, invaluable to prospective adoptive parents and agencies alike.

Beware of Shortcuts in Foreign Adoptions, Gaw. This 24-page reprint provides prospective adoptive parents with statistics on the number of adoptions from various countries and a very helpful analysis of the adoption process in Inter-American adoptions.

Being Adopted, Rosenberg. A story of three children adopted by families with different racial and cultural roots. Story and actual photos reveal their doubts, fears, satisfactions and triumphs--feelings and experiences brought about by adoption.

Where the Sun Kisses the Sea, Gabel. A picture book which lovingly looks at a Korean boy's search for a "forever family".

All of these books, as well as many others, are available from the NCFA bookstore--a full listing is provided at the end of this book.

46. Do's and Don'ts in Adopting a Foreign Child

DO'S	DON'TS
1. Do your homework first. Buy and read sound books on adopting. Obtain the materials from Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Department of State dealing with foreign adoption.	1. Do not buy expensive books or materials put out by groups which are promoting their own services, including their own consultation services.
2. Thoroughly explore with a counselor or an adoptive parent who had adopted a child from abroad the pros and cons of adopting.	2. Do not rely on rumors or hearsay about how "easy" it is to adopt a child from abroad--investigate carefully.
3. Do try to work through a reputable, licensed adoption agency which is experienced in international adoptions. If you do decide to work through a parents' group or other advocacy organization, be sure to check the group out thoroughly before following their suggestions. Do try to work through an agency despite the fact that the adoption may take longer to arrange. Usually an agency adoption will be handled in compliance with all laws of both the sending country and the U.S. And there will be a resource to assist you and the child once the adoption is finalized.	3. Do not work with anyone--including any groups or lawyers recommended by any organization or individual--who claims to be able to streamline established procedures. Frequently these individuals and groups advise actions which are illegal or unethical. The child may not be legally adopted in the sending country or the U.S., as a result. Disregard any advice, including that in some books on adoption, which suggests any illegal act, such as smuggling a child across a border.
4. Do insist on full information about the agency, orphanage or other place where the child is now living. Be very careful if anyone hesitates to provide this information, with the excuse that "the source of children must remain confidential."	4. Do not work with any agency or individual who will not provide details about the situation where the child now lives and the whereabouts of the child's biological parents. This can indicate a "black-market" situation.
5. Do insist on a full and accurate accounting of all costs related to the adoption. For most adoptions from other countries, the costs (including home study, fees to the agency or other individuals in the sending country, escorting the child, etc.,) should not exceed $7,000. These costs do not include travel required by the prospective adoptive parents. Be very wary if you are asked to make direct payments to anyone in another country.	5. Do not work with any agency or individual who will not provide, in writing, prior to any agreement to adopt, a full and detailed list of usual charges. Do not pay "finder's fees," as these are frequently found to be bribes. Require detailed written explanation of any lawyer's fee over $2,000.

6. Do work with agencies or individuals who are comfortable with your checking them out with national organizations such as the National Committee For Adoption.	6. Do not work with agencies or individuals who suggest that agencies or national groups such as the National Committee For Adoption should not be contacted for recommendations.
7. Do realize that thousands of children are adopted each year, mostly through agencies without undue problems or excessive delays or cost. International adoption can work quite well.	7. Do not allow any agency or individual to attempt to pressure you, saying that there is only a short time for you to decide whether to work with them or to adopt a particular child. These are familiar tactics of those groups and individuals who prey on prospective adoptors and who count on high-pressure tactics to deliver naive people into their clutches.
8. Do investigate thoroughly at each step of the process. Adoption is a major step for the child and for you. International adoption adds extra complexities and you should not proceed unless you are comfortable with each step in the process.	8. Do not place yourself blindly in the hands of any agency or individual who purports to be able to help you adopt internationally. An informed prospective adoptive parent is a better adoptive parent.

Also, see Chapter 8, "Immigration and Naturalization Service: Summary of Petition Procedures for Adopting a Foreign Infant".

47. Risks in Independent Adoption Arrangements

Experimental or "open" adoption (discussed in Chapter 30) may put the desires of the birth parents ahead of the desires of the adoptive parents and best interests of the child. **Independent adoption,** on the other hand, often puts the desires of the adoptive parents first because they are able to bypass the controls imposed by licensed agencies and caseworker professionals. In an agency placement, the main client is the child, not the prospective adoptive couple. In an independent adoption, the lawyer tends to view the adoptive couple as the clients (Landis, 1987).

The highly-publicized New York City Steinberg case in which six-year old Elizabeth was beaten to death was intended to be an independent adoption. The birth mother, Michelle Launders, gave Joel Steinberg, a Manhattan lawyer, $500 to arrange an independent adoption. Steinberg did not arrange the adoption, but instead kept Elizabeth in his home with Hedda Nussbaum, a writer of children's books with whom he had lived for 17 years. Steinberg and Nussbaum also "adopted" a 17 month old boy in the same way. The lack of controls in these two illegal "adoptions" are all too common in independent adoptions (Landis, 1987).

Three studies highlight the "failure rate" of agency adoptions as compared with those arranged independently.

In the first two studies, there is a startling difference between agency adoptions and independent adoptions. The first study (Amatruda and Baldwin, 1951) found that only 46 percent of the cases arranged independently were judged successful at the time of placement. By comparison, 75 percent of agency adoptions were judged successful. In other words, the failure rate was 25 percent vs. 54 percent, or roughly twice as high for independent adoptions. The second study (Witmer et.al., 1963) was based on an analysis of homes after independent adoption placement. This study found that only 46 percent appeared to offer the child a "favorable" setting, 30 percent were definitely unfavorable, and 24 percent lay in-between, with something approaching a balance between favorable and unfavorable.

Agency adoptions, as one would suspect, are not perfect. Perhaps, given the state of the art of practice of more than 30 years ago, we should not be surprised to see that the rate of unsuccessful placements was so high. What is clear, even in this unflattering light for agencies, is that the independent adoptions are much worse.

The third and more recent study by Meezan et.al. (1978) suggests a closer look at private adoptions, especially in these four areas:

(1) Although most of the pregnant women came to facilitators late in their pregnancy and abortion was generally ruled out, facilitators did not discuss the options of single parenting or marriage with them. "Over one-third of the intermediaries never talked to the biological mothers about alternatives to adoption." (p. 123). This highlights the risk of poor counseling given in non-agency placements.

(2) Only one out of every five of the lawyers in the study said that biological fathers' consent to the adoption or termination of parental rights was required (p. 129). See Chapter 41 for a thorough discussion of "Rights of the Biological Father".

(3) The study found that over one-quarter of the intermediaries reported that no attempt was made to screen adoptive applicants. Among those who did screen adoptive applicants, only 15% used the factor of meeting "minimum standards for Court" as a factor in screening (p. 134). NCFA believes that screening is necessary to rule out those who would be unfit parents.

(4) "Fewer than half of the facilitators said they discuss with adoptive parents handling the subject of adoption with the child." (p. 147). If there isn't counseling for adoptive applicants, both parents and children may suffer.

NCFA does not present these data to denigrate or condemn families who have been formed through private placements. Rather, NCFA means to spur discussion and debate and an examination of ways to add protection to all parties involved in independent adoption, especially the children. Indeed, most of the families who have adopted privately are healthy and happy and NCFA works to end discrimination against and stigmatizing of all adoptive families and children, no matter what adoption route they chose.

NCFA believes that the following nine potential problems are the most serious risks in independent adoptions:

1. Some children are transferred or actually "sold" for high fees. This is the "gray market" and the "black market" that actually exists.

2. Confidentiality may not be protected. Many are arranged in ways so all involved are known to each other.

3. The child's rights to permanency may not be protected. The couple wants a normal child. If the child is not, the child may be left in a legal limbo while the lawyer (or other independent actor) and the biological parents attempt to arrange some other placement.

4. Custody fights between placement time and finalization are possible and frequently take place. In a recent Texas case, the biological mother reclaimed the child from the adoptive parents.

5. There is greater likelihood that the biological mother will change her mind after placement but before her rights have been terminated. One network television investigation reported that 15 percent of the independent adoption placements in California result in a birth parent requesting return of the baby.

6. A couple who has not been approved by a licensed agency for appropriate reasons may be able to obtain a child through independent adoption.

7. The adoptive parents may not receive full and accurate information about the health status and history of the child. Frequently, problems are covered up or not mentioned in the hope that bonding or finalization will take place and the adoptive parents will have no recourse.

8. Frequently, for a variety of reasons, the legal process is never completed. The most common example is where the father's rights are never adequately terminated.

9. Perhaps most important of all, the biological parents (especially the mother) receive little if any adequate counseling regarding the plan that is best for them and for the child. In independent adoptions, it is not in the best interest of the third party, whose fee is being paid by the persons who wish to get a child, to say anything which conflicts with the best interest of the client who is paying the fee.

Experience shows that private adoption, in one form or another, is here to stay. Many concerned individuals, some legal experts and children's advocates included, believe however, that some minimal changes are necessary to protect the members of the adoption circle. In 1988, a New York grand jury investigated private adoption practice and law in that state following the tragic death of the 6-year-old New York City girl at the hands of Joel Steinberg. Steinberg was the lawyer who acquired custody of young Lisa when she was a baby through a private placement, and he was subsequently found guilty of first degree manslaughter. In early 1989 the grand jury issued its report. Concluding that "the laws governing private placement adoptions must be changed (in New York State) to better protect birthmothers, adoptive parents, and children placed for adoption," (Report of the Fifth Grand Jury for the April/May Term of 1988 Recommending Changes in the Laws Concerning Private Placement Adoptions, New York Supreme Court, New York County, 1989, pg. 8), the grand jury made a series of recommendations. These included that homestudies must be completed prior to placement in all adoptions, that birthmothers may not sign adoption consent papers until at least five days after the birth of a child, and that it be made a felony for a non-relative to take custody of a child indefinitely and never legalize the relationship, as Mr. Steinberg and his live-in girlfriend did in this case. NCFA urges the state legislature of New York and the legislatures of other states to seriously consider the grand jury's recommendations.

While this chapter focuses on private adoption, the importance of ensuring ethical and competent agency adoption practice is not lost on NCFA and others. For many years NCFA has been a supporter of the Council on Accreditation for Services to Children and Families, Inc. (COA). COA is the national body that accredits adoption agencies. Accreditation involves in-depth examination of an agency's practices, including professional qualifications of staff, support services for members of the adoption circle, and service delivery practices. NCFA and six other national organizations are sponsors of COA. The COA provides an important vehicle for improving the level of agency practice nationwide.

The next chapter contrasts and compares the many differences between public agency, private agency, and independent adoptions.

48. Public Agency, Private Agency, and Individually Arranged Adoptions: Risks and Benefits

NCFA's 1986 survey data suggests that public agencies, private agencies, and private individuals are all active in adoption placements. The trend data in table 12 and figure 6 of this Factbook points out that individually arranged adoptions comprise 31 percent of unrelated adoptions, public agency adoptions account for 39 percent, and private agency adoptions account for 29 percent.

NCFA provides in outline form an explanation of the different facets of adoption with each approach. The outline is oversimplified and may not accurately reflect the practices of any agency or individual who arranges adoptions. NCFA's outline is based on research studies and expert "knowledge" of practices we have observed in the several States, but may not apply to any specific case.

Families who adopt successfully and ethically without agency assistance are to be congratulated for their initiative. Their adoptive children usually receive the same level of excellent care as children placed through agencies. Many have beaten the odds against long waits on agency lists and the risk of no child for them to nurture. For them, the risks entailed in independent adoption balanced out well against the risk of childlessness or a long wait. While most independent adoptions are success stories, there are risks and complications to which couples considering this approach must be alerted. The very nature of independent adoptions is such that one practitioner may be highly professional and competent, whereas another may engage in unethical or illegal practices. Most independent adoptions are probably arranged ethically, legally, and professionally, but have greater chance of being unregulated, unsupervised, and "underground".

	Public Agency	Private Agency	Independent
What percentage of adoptions fall through because of legal or other problems?	Virtually none	Virtually none	Perhaps 20%
Is there any history of adoptions not being finalized because of legal problems, such as not properly terminating the legal rights of the biological father?	Rarely	Rarely	Yes
NCFA's estimate of the usual range of costs for adopting through this source?	$0-$3,000, $1,000 median	$0-$15,000, $7,000 median	$2,000-$20,000, $12,000 median

	Public Agency	Private Agency	Independent
Are there excellent individuals involved in adoptions through this source?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Are there definite requirements as to the age or health of the prospective adoptive parents?	Yes	Yes	No
Is the stability of the adoptive parents' marriage usually checked out?	Yes	Yes	No
Are various methods used to screen for obvious psychological problems in prospective adoptive parents?	Yes	Yes	No
Are there known cases of unethical or illegal payments to biological parents for relinquishing their rights?	No	No	Yes
Are the child's best interests the consistent basis for decisions about which home is chosen?	Yes	Yes	No
Is counseling of all those involved in the process provided by a professional who is objective and who sees all parties equally as "clients?"	Yes	Yes	No
Is a home study required before the child is placed in the home?	Yes	Yes	Not usually
Is a child born with a defect or abnormality typically placed for adoption by this source?	Yes	Yes	No
Is the biological mother given time to be sure that the adoption decision is best, even if temporary foster care is required?	Yes	Yes	No

	Public Agency	Private Agency	Independent
Is a full discussion required with the biological mother about her option of being a single parent?	Yes	Yes	No
Are private counseling, medical care, and free housing often made available to the pregnant woman?	No	Yes	Yes
Are there special rules which require one parent to remain in the home while the child is young?	Seldom	Sometimes	No
Is the biological mother able to have input in the choice of adoptive homes?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Can adoptive placement be made prior to irrevocable relinquishment (i.e.,"legal-risk") to avoid foster care for the baby?	No	Yes	Yes
Is detailed information usually obtained from biological parents and shared with the adoptive family?	Yes	Yes	No
Is the original background information maintained on a permanent basis, and can updating of this information take place?	Yes	Yes	No
Is counseling available after the adoption is finalized for all of the parties?	Yes	Yes	No
Is an experienced social worker the main liaison for all parties?	Yes	Yes	No
Is it usually required for the biological mother to become a welfare recipient to receive services?	Yes	No	No

	Public Agency	Private Agency	Independent
NCFA's estimate of the percentage of handicapped or special needs children placed by this method?	Over 50%	Under 50%	Relatively few
NCFA's estimate of the percentage of healthy infants placed by this method?	About 5%	About 45%	About 50%
What is the usual waiting period for a healthy black infant?	Less than a year	Less than a year	Less than a year
What is the usual waiting period for a healthy Hispanic infant?	Few are available	2-4 years	2-4 years
What is the usual waiting period for a healthy Anglo (white) infant?	Few are available	2-10 years	Three months-two years
Does this approach work when one is seeking to adopt a child from another country?	Rarely	Yes	Yes
Are healthy infants from Korea available through this approach?	Sometimes	Yes	No
Are healthy infants from most other countries available through this approach?	Sometimes	Yes	Yes
Apart from the fee, if any, which is charged to the adoptive family, is the income of the family a factor in the choice of a family?	Rarely	Yes	No
NCFA's estimate of the "failure rate" (i.e., child's adjustment seen as unsatisfactory by family members) of adoptions through this approach?	About 25%	About 25%	25% to 50%
Can single persons adopt a healthy infant through this approach?	Often	Rarely	Yes

49. Black Adoption Issues

Black adoption issues pertain to new issues not yet discussed and to the following topics discussed elsewhere in this 1989 Adoption Factbook:

- that there is resistance to interracial adoption by some groups, such as The National Association of Black Social Workers, because they feel that it represents "cultural genocide" (see Chapter 33).
- That the child's development of self-esteem and cultural awareness are normal in transracial adoptions (already discussed in Chapter 33).
- that black birthmothers are much more likely to parent their nonmaritally conceived babies and not place them for adoption nearly as often as do white birthmothers (see Chapter 40).
- that black teenagers are much more likely to be at high-risk of teenage nonmarital childbearing than are white or Hispanic teenagers (see Chapter 34).
- that there are relatively more black children free for adoption and awaiting placement than are white children (see Chapter 52).
- that there are interracial and intercultural support groups for couples who adopt transracially (see list in Chapter 70).
- that there are agencies and programs which are non-discriminatory and actively seek to recruit black families for adoption (see list in Chapter 71).

A report entitled Minority Adoptions (Office of the Inspector General, 1987) contacted a substantial number of adoption agencies in five states to identify the particular **barriers** in placing black adoptable children with prospective black adoptive parents. They found:

- Large numbers of minority children are both older and handicapped. There are three times as many of these difficult-to-place children than there are younger healthy children. There are five times as many of these older and handicapped children as there are minority families waiting to adopt them. In the above study, eleven agencies were contacted. Almost three-fourths (71 percent) of the children were age four and over, but only 48 percent of waiting families wanted a child age four and over. Also, 59 percent of all the children were handicapped, but only 8 percent of waiting families wanted a handicapped child. Thus, there is a startling mismatch between the number of handicapped children and prospective families for them.
- Minority families may not adopt as often because some agencies prefer married couples rather than singles and those in other living arrangements, and minority families sometimes believe "you have to be rich" to adopt.

- There is lack of systematic data at national, state, and local levels, which prevents effective planning and policy on minority adoptions.

- Many black prospective parent applicants felt that caseworkers have attitudes that are "too white middle class" and biased against them.

Some **solutions** for facilitating black adoptions are identified by the Office of the Inspector General (1987) and the President's Interagency Task Force on Adoption (1988), including:

- outreach to minority communities, media stories featuring individual children, flexible hours and policies, and employment of minority staff

- interagency coordinating mechanisms so agencies can share information to better match adoptive children and parents. For example, both KINSHIP in Detroit and the Adoption Committee in New York City have interagency committees which meet regularly to share information about waiting children and families among public and private agencies in the area.

- personalized presentations of specific older and handicapped minority children to potential parents.

- use of role models, such as adoptive parents and celebrities who themselves were adopted.

- sponsoring special activities designed to bring waiting children and potential adoptive families together. These include adoption fairs, festivals, and parties. Examples are the Annual Adoption Fantasy Festival for Latino Kids, and the Black Adoption Festival, both in Los Angeles. At recent festivals there, Ricardo Mantalban and Ben Vereen each participated as adopted persons.

- publicizing agency activities in minority-oriented media.

- using the media to feature specific waiting minority children in newspaper columns or TV spots: "the children sell themselves", reported one agency. For example, the Black Family Registry in Detroit has "A Child is Waiting" feature in the Sunday Detroit News.

- sending agency staff out to speak to minority organizations, especially black churches.

- keeping flexible hours for applicants, including evening and weekend hours.

- responding openly, sensitively, and more quickly to minority applicants on phone inquiries and later questions.

- providing post-placement adoption services to prevent disruptions (discussed extensively in chapter 33).

- special approaches to hiring and training of minority staff, and provide formal training in minority adoption methods or cultural sensitivity.

- publicizing the availabilities of subsidies under the IV-E Adoption Assistance Program, regular subsidies, and other medical subsidies so families do not become economically damaged by adopting a handicapped child.

In the chapter on "Facilitating Black Adoptions" in NCFA's 1985 Adoption Factbook, the available research on this topic was reviewed in some detail. In summary, that research showed that:

- about 70 percent of the 7,000 black children were placed with black families,

- 1970's restrictions on placing black children with white couples, and a shortage of black adoptive families, may have reduced the potential for black children to be placed for adoption and kept them in foster care,

- a 1982 national survey by the Committee to End Racism in Michigan's Child Care System, Inc. found that 15 states still had requirements to preserve the racial/cultural identity of the child in adoption placements, and

- families interested in adopting transracially should explore in the home narrative their motivations, expectations, family reactions, and child-rearing philosophies, and that

- good data on this topic is sorely lacking.

Bachrach (1986) reviewed the differences by race in the percentage of ever-married women who had adopted a child by 1982. Almost as many black ever-married women (1.5 percent) as white ever-married women (2.2 percent) had adopted, a difference which was not statistically significant. This contrasts sharply with the percentages of black and white mothers who placed their babies born premaritally for adoption (12.2 percent white, but only 0.4 percent black). This contrast might suggest that the pool of black infants available for adoption might be much smaller than of white infants. Or, this apparent inconsistency may be explained in three ways: (1) nonmarital birth rates are four times higher for black mothers than for white mothers, so the smaller percentage of premaritally-born babies placed for adoption by black women is offset by a relatively larger pool of premarital births; (2) black women are almost three times as likely as white women to adopt related children, and usually these adoptions occur some time after birth; and (3) black women are less likely than white women to ever marry, and so are in less of a position to adopt.

If data were available on the racial/ethnic identity of adoptees, adoptive parents, and biological parents, then many of the controversies surrounding black adoption issues could be addressed factually, and policy implications could be clarified accordingly.

50. Hispanic Adoption Issues

The nation's Hispanic population has increased 30 percent since 1980, five times as fast as the rest of the population. Yet even less is known about Hispanic birthmothers, adopted children, adoptive parents, and trans-ethnic adoption, than is known about these issues as they relate to blacks. First, we can highlight a few facts discussed elsewhere in this Factbook.

Foreign adoptions of Hispanic children are known (tables 14 and 15). Of 10,097 foreign children adopted in the United States in fiscal 1987, 2,319 (or 23 percent) came from Mexico, the Carribean, Central America, and South America. However, of 51,157 unrelated domestic adoptions in 1986, no one knows how many children were of Hispanic origin.

We know that white (Anglo) birthmothers are much more likely to place their premaritally born babies for adoption than black birthmothers, but we have no knowledge of this statistic for Hispanic birthmothers. Text table 43A compares white, black, and Hispanic mothers. It shows that 31.6 percent of births to Hispanics are to unmarried mothers, twice as high as the percent for whites (15.7 percent), but half the percent for blacks (61.2 percent). Recall also that in the "Teenage Birthparents" chapter in this Factbook, Hispanic teens fell between black teens and white teens in their risk for teenage parenthood profiles. Note also the wide variation among the Hispanic subgroups--Puerto Rican mothers are over three times as likely to have their births out-of-wedlock than Cuban mothers. It is therefore an overgeneralization to talk about "Hispanic issues", because they are likely to vary substantially between the different Hispanic subgroups.

The annual number of births to unmarried Hispanic mothers in 1986 was 122,939 in the 23 reporting States. These 23 states include 93 percent of the Nation's Hispanics. While Hispanics account for 14 percent of the Nation's births to unmarried mothers, it would not necessarily be correct to suggest that 14 percent of the Nation's domestic adoptions are of Hispanic children. NCFA cautions against this type of estimate because of the large known discrepancy in the percentages of black and white mothers placing their nonmarital births for adoption. For example, Bachrach (1986) points out 12.2 percent of white birth mothers but only 0.4 percent of black birthmothers place their premaritally-born children for adoption. Furthermore, large variations in the propensity for adoption placement is likely among the different Hispanic subgroups.

The Voluntary Cooperative Information System (ACYF, 1988) reports only on public agency adoptions from selected states, and points out that nine percent of children adopted in 1985 were of Hispanic origin. An earlier study by Gurak, Smith, and Goldson (1979) found that Hispanic children in New York City remained in foster care 15 months longer than white children, but three months less than black children. Since NCFA's 1986 survey showed that 39.2 percent of the Nation's adoptions were handled by public agencies, VCIS estimates of placements of Hispanic children pertain to only two out of every five adoptions. Nothing is known about the placement of Hispanic children by private agencies and in independent adoptions. Furthermore, nothing is known about the Hispanic origins of adoptive parents in public agency, private agency, or independent adoptions, or of the Hispanic origins of adoptive parents of foreign adoptees. Also, nothing is known about the relative success of Hispanic or white adoptive parents with Hispanic adoptive children. This again stresses the need for better data to guide policy and practice.

Fortunately, more is known about Hispanic children in foster care, and that information is reviewed in the chapter on "Foster Care: America's Children Waiting For Adoption".

Text Table 50. Fertility rates, percent of births to unmarried mothers, and number of births to unmarried mothers by race and Hispanic origin: 1986

	Fertility rate	Percent of births to unmarried mothers	Number of births to unmarried mothers
All races and origins	65.4	23.4%	878,477
White	61.9	15.7%	466,774
Black	82.4	61.2%	380,261
Hispanic	93.9[1]	31.6%[3]	122,939[3,4]
Mexican	95.9	27.9%	68,683
Puerto Rican	68.4	52.6%	19,246
Cuban	55.8	15.8%	1,568
Central and South American	-	38.0%	17,110
Other and unknown Hispanic	113.3[2]	31.9%	16,376

NOTES: Fertility rates are numbers of births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 in specified groups.

[1] Fertility rates are from 11 reporting States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, and Texas).

[2] Includes Central and South American and other and unknown Hispanic origin.

[3] Births to unmarried mothers are from 23 reporting States (11 reporting States above plus Arkansas, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Wyoming plus the District of Columbia). An estimated 93 percent of all Hispanics live in these 23 States and D.C.

[4] Number of births to Hispanic unmarried mothers derived by applying percent of births to unmarried mothers to total numbers of births to Hispanic mothers in 23 reporting States and D.C.

SOURCE: NCHS, 1988.

51. American Indian Adoptions and the Indian Child Welfare Act

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978 governs adoptions involving Indian children, but no accurate National data exists to determine the effect this law has had on Indian children not living with their biological parents. The enactment of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 was the result of lobbying efforts by various organizations, including Indian tribes. The Act was a response to the numbers of Indian children being placed in foster care, which Congress determined to be of problematic proportions.

The Act gives Indian tribal organizations jurisdiction over all placement decisions concerning children who are members of Indian tribes or who have at least one biological parent who is a tribal member. The act also provides that the Indian tribe may intervene at any time in State proceedings regarding the foster care or adoptive placement of an Indian child. Under this law, preference for the adoptive placement of an Indian child must be with:

1. a member of the child's extended family,
2. other members of the Indian child's tribe or
3. other Indian families.

The Act therefore has two effects:

1) some Indian children may be denied adoptive homes because their biological parents do not agree with the preferences of ICWA, or families who meet the preference criteria are not available, and

2) a non-Indian family wishing to adopt an Indian child may face major legal obstacles.

The Congressional findings which begin the Act state, in part, "that an alarmingly high percentage of Indian families are broken up by the removal, often unwarranted, of their children from them by nontribal public and private agencies and that an alarmingly high percentage of such children are placed in non-Indian foster and adoptive homes and institutions..." The Act related to Indian children defined as "any unmarried person who is under 18 and is either (a) a member of an Indian tribe or (b) is eligible for membership in an Indian tribe and is the biological child of a member of an Indian tribe."

In November 1987 and May 1988 the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs held the first oversight hearings on the Indian Child Welfare Act. Specifically, the Committee considered S. 1976 (introduced by then Republican Senator Daniel Evans of Washington State). No action was taken on S. 1976 in 1988. The bill would have, for example, amended the Act so as to not allow a biological parent of a part-Indian child to object to the transfer of his or her child to tribal custody. It would have extended the 1978 law to children of Indians no matter where they live in the U.S., would cover even the children of Canadian Indians, would override decisions made by the children's natural Indian parents, and would require adoptive families to maintain contacts with and allow continuing visits by members of the children's family's tribe. Sponsors of the legislation claim that it is always in the best interest of the Indian child to strengthen the capacity of the tribe to control all legal decisions of the parent-child relationship, even if the parents had voluntarily left their ancestral homeland--perhaps generations ago.

NCFA believes that S. 1976 sets bad precedent for child welfare, and NCFA's Dr. William Pierce filed testimony against it at the May 11, 1988 hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs. NCFA also commented on the 1978 ICWA in the same testimony. Highlights of the testimony are as follows:

- The 1978 ICWA needs revision, but not in the direction of S. 1976
- The 1978 ICWA deprives Indian biological parents of free choice and confidentiality. It drives them away from reputable adoption agencies and to unethical, unscrupulous intermediaries once they learn of ICWA requirements. Indian birth mothers, like many other birth mothers, value their privacy and often do not want their relatives and tribes notified about their pregnancies and adoption plans.
- Indian birthparents should have the freedom to place their children with Indian or non-Indian adoptive parents.
- S. 1976 would exempt Indian tribal governments from some basic foster care requirements of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act while requiring that the tribes be eligible for Title IV-E money.
- S. 1976 would make Indian adoptions "open" or "experimental" because of requirements for notification and visits by tribal members.

Several widely-publicized cases highlight the fact that the child's best welfare can be overlooked when the ICWA is applied. An unmarried Navajo birth mother, Cecilia Saunders, gave birth to her son in 1977, and placed him for adoption in 1980. Michael was adopted by a non-Navajo family, Dan and Patricia Carter. In 1982, allegedly at the urging of her tribe, Saunders changed her mind, and sued to regain custody of Michael because the adoption did not follow provisions of the 1978 ICWA. In 1987, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver ruled that the 1980 adoption was invalid, that the Carters will only be Michael's guardians, and that Saunders will have specified visitation rights. In another case, Navajo birthmother Patricia Keetso had placed her child with a non-Navajo couple, Rick and Cheryl Pitts, whom she had chosen. The Pitts family had taken Keetso into their home, paid her medical expenses, and assisted in her delivery. Nine months after the baby had been with the Pitts, the Navajo tribe intervened and gained custody of the child under provisions of the 1978 ICWA, even though Keetso wanted the child to remain with the Pitts because she did not want her child to be raised on the Navajo reservation. The adoption was not allowed, even though Rick Pitts is one-quarter Indian (not Navajo), and had offered to expose the child to Navajo heritage. The Pitts were only granted guardianship of the child, a legal status of dubious permanency.

The deficiencies in the 1978 ICWA often result in Indian children remaining in foster care, with few becoming available for adoption. Statistics from Indian Child Welfare: A Status Report (ACYF, 1988) ranks reasons why Indian children were placed in substitute care in 1986:

37.3% - Neglect
14.3% - Parent substance abuse
13.2% - Abuse, molestation
8.8% - Abandonment
5.1% - Reason unknown
5.0% - Child status offense
3.9% - Other delinquency
3.4% - Other parent condition
3.2% - Other reason
2.7% - Child disability
1.0% - Hardship, no housing

100.0%

The report shows that over three-fourths of Indian children are in substitute care because of parental behavior or problems. Further statistics on Indian children in all types of substitute care and adoption are presented here.

Indian Children and Type of Substitute Care

	Total	Public	Tribal	Bureau of Indian Affairs	Off Reservation
Number of Indian children in substitute care in 1986	9,123	4,761	3,156	797	409
Number of Indian children available for adoption in 1986	340	184	111	14	31
Percent of Indian children in substitute care available for adoption in 1986	3.7%	3.9%	3.5%	1.8%	7.6%

Only 3.7 percent of Indian children in substitute care are available for adoption, much less than half the expected number for non-Indian children as described in Chapter 52 of this Factbook. Furthermore, the number of Indian children in substitute care may be rising by 20 percent per year (ACYF, 1988). The report states that problems in implementing the Indian placement preference include lack of Indian foster homes, state policies that require state licensing of homes in addition to tribal licensing or approval, and the unsuitability of some extended family homes.

NCFA believes that some version of an Indian Child Welfare Act is indeed necessary in order to maintain the unique trust relationship between the U.S. Government and the sovereign tribal governments on behalf of Indian children. However, in order to minimize confusion and delays, and to ensure rights of biological parents of Indian or part-Indian children, we believe the Act needs some improvements. These include amendments specifically stating that biological parents may confidentially object to tribal intervention in a voluntary adoption placement, and to define an Indian child for purposes of the Act as one who is a tribal member.

52. Foster Care and Adoption: Emphasis on Special Needs Children

It is estimated from the Voluntary Cooperative Information System that there were more than 276,000 children in substitute care in 1985 (ACYF, 1988). Children come into foster care, supposedly on a temporary basis, because their parents cannot care for them. The President's Interagency Task Force on Adoption (1988) reported that three-fourths of these children are in foster care because they have been emotionally or physically abused and/or neglected by their parents or guardians. Two-fifths of these children remain in foster care for two years or more. It is appropriate to view this time from the child's perspective: one year in foster care for a five year old is 20 percent of a child's life. The Task Force on Adoption (1988) estimates that there are now 36,000 children in foster care for whom adoption is considered the best plan. Of these adoptable children, 60 percent are "special needs" with physical or emotional difficulties, belong to sibling groups, are minorities, or are older children. They include the "boarder babies" born to addict mothers, newborns who tested positive for HIV antibodies, and other difficult-to-place children. NCFA's National Adoption Survey showed that 13,568 special needs adoptions occurred in 1986, and that these comprised 26.5 percent of all unrelated domestic adoptions in that year.

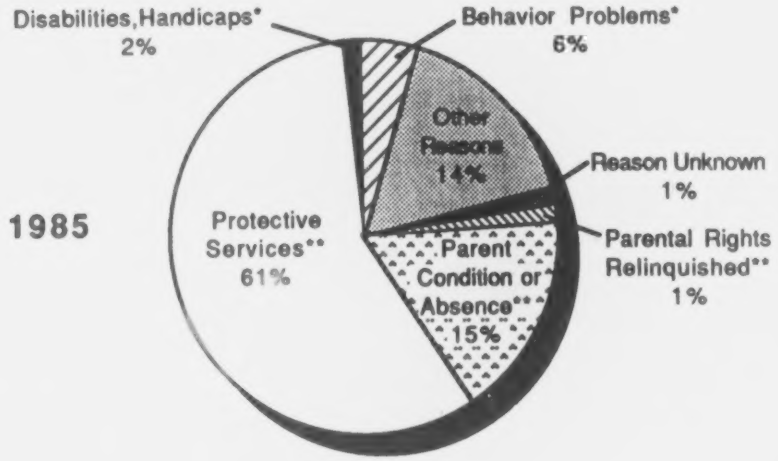
Note that there were 276,000 children in substitute care in 1985 (ACYF, 1988), and that most of them were in care for protective services or because of the parents' condition (see VCIS Exhibit 6 in this chapter). We are now interested in relating the number of these children to the total number of American children who are victims of abuse and neglect.

In 1988, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1988) released a report compiled under a contract with Westat, Inc. which showed that **1,025,900 children suffered from abuse or neglect in 1986**. About half the cases involve physical, sexual or emotional abuse. The other half involve neglect of the child's physical needs for such things as food, clothing and shelter, or neglect of educational and emotional needs. The figures reflect cases where a state or local child protection agency either substantiated maltreatment or there was reasonable cause to believe that the child had experienced maltreatment. Under this definition, the corresponding number of abused and neglected children in 1980 was 625,100. The increase was attributed to the greater likelihood that professionals will recognize maltreatment, rather than an increase in the actual occurrence of maltreatment. NCFA believes that, because of the increased detection of maltreatment by professionals, the number of children in substitute care may grow substantially in the near future. This will present an even greater challenge for public agencies, and could result in increases in the number of children in care waiting for adoptive homes.

Two existing federal programs deal with special needs adoptions. The Adoption Opportunities Program (Title II of P.L. 95-266 enacted in 1978, 42 U.S.C. 5111 et.seq.) provides for grants to states and non-profit groups for program development, training and technical assistance, services to eliminate barriers to adoption, and help in finding permanent homes for special needs children who would benefit by adoption. The Adoption

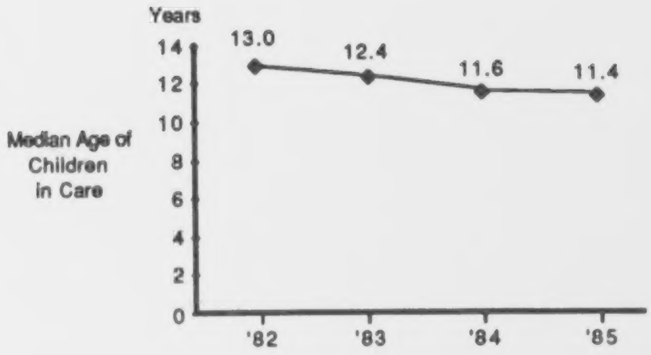
Assistance Program (P.L. 96-272 enacted in 1980, 42 U.S.C. 608 et.seq.) permits Federal reimbursement to states for adoption subsidies made to special needs children eligible for Aid to Families with Dependent Children or Supplemental Security Income.

The next part of this chapter will focus on selected results from three volumes (ACYF, 1987) on adoption and substitute care. The 1985 data from the Voluntary Cooperative Information System came from a varying number of states, so they are not necessarily nationally representative. Selected graphs (called "exhibits in the VCIS report) are reproduced here as they were published in the original report.



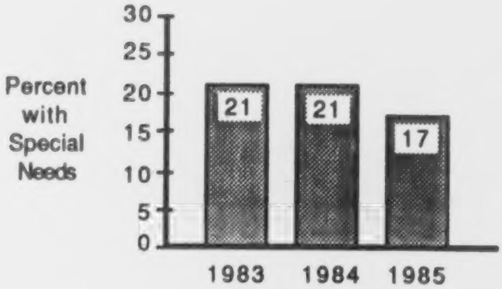
VCIS Exhibit 6

VCIS Exhibit 6 shows the reasons why 82,776 children from 21 states entered substitute care in 1985. These figures reflect a rise in entries for protective services reasons over 1984, when 77,226 children entered care in those states.



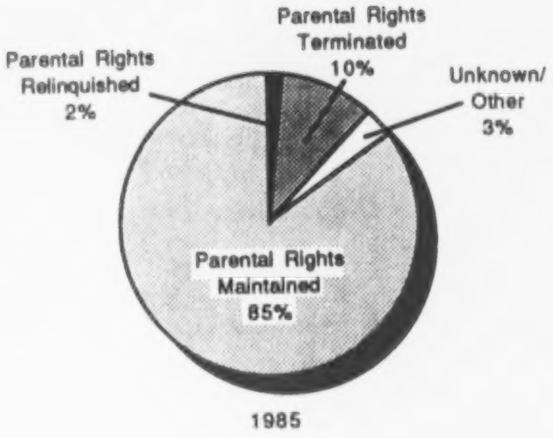
VCIS Exhibit 9

VCIS Exhibit 9 shows that the median age of children in substitute care has dropped, probably because older children are leaving care. Data are based on 37 states reporting on 83 percent of children in care.



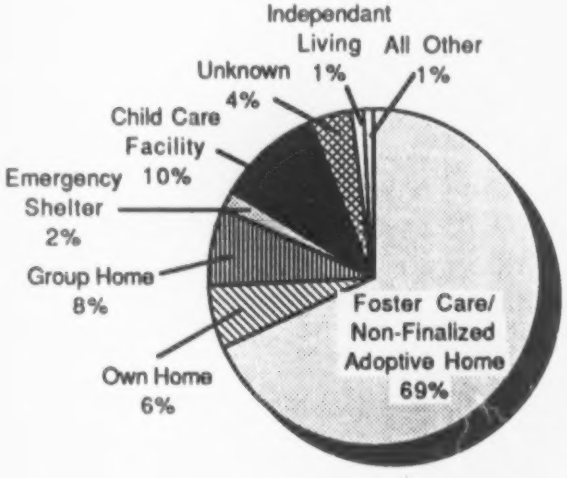
VCIS Exhibit 11

VCIS Exhibit 11 is based only on 14 states which reported that 17 percent of their substitute care children were in the special needs category. NCFA estimates that if 17 percent of all 276,000 children in substitute care are special needs, then there were 47,000 special needs children in substitute care in 1985.



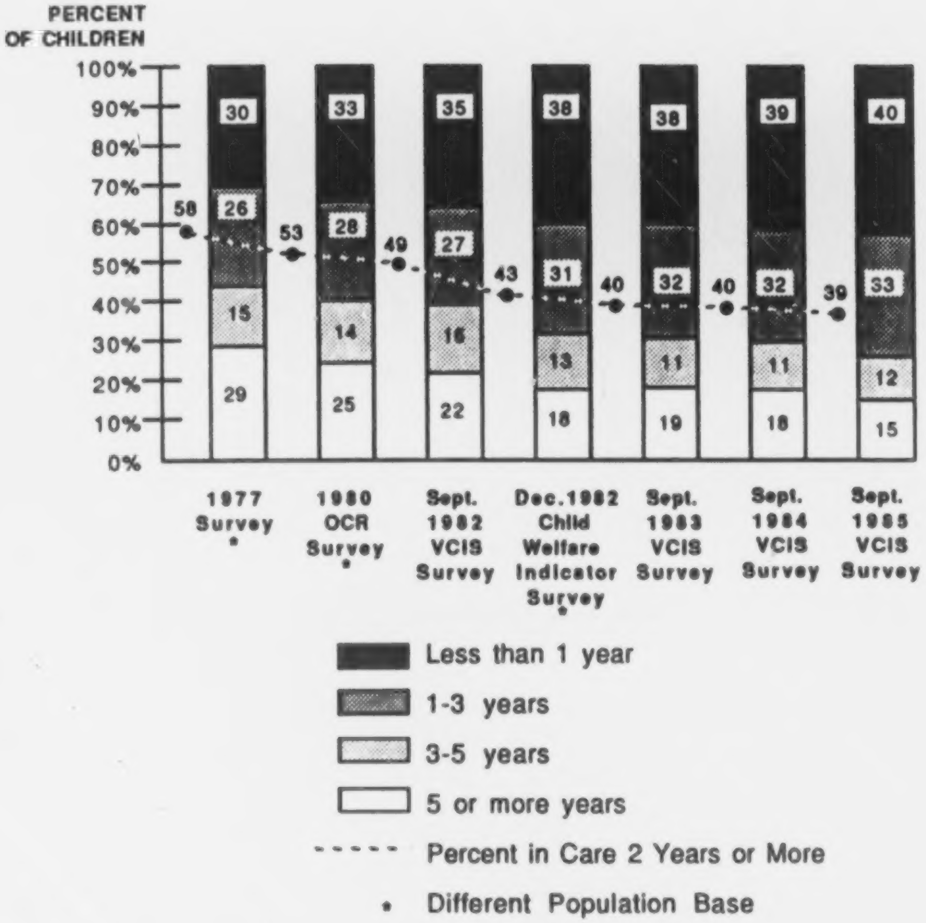
VCIS Exhibit 12

VCIS Exhibit 12 shows the legal placement status of children in substitute care in 1985. The vast majority (85 percent) still have parental rights maintained. Data are from 16 states.



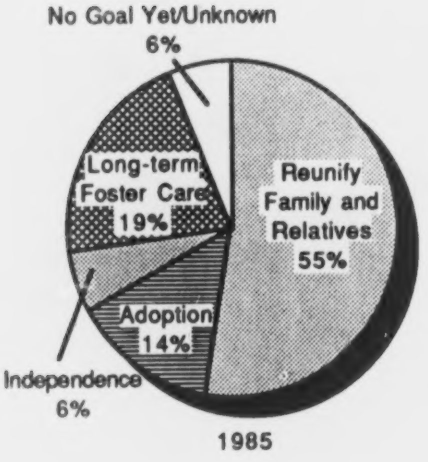
VCIS Exhibit 14

VCIS Exhibit 14 shows the living arrangements of children in substitute care in 1985. More than two-thirds of children in care reside in foster or non-final adoptive homes, as reported by 33 States.



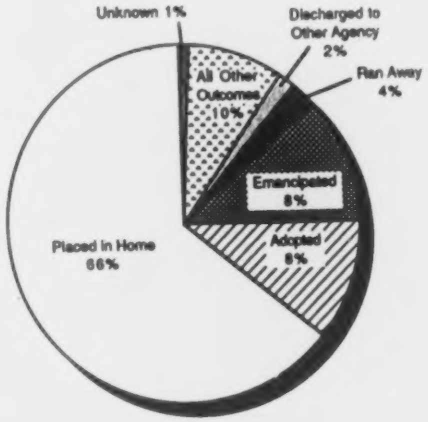
VCIS Exhibit 15

VCIS Exhibit 15 shows the length of time of children in substitute care at the end of the period as measured in 1977-1985 surveys. There is a clear decline of time children spend in substitute care. In 1977, the median length of time in care was 31 months; this declined to 17 months in 1985. In 1985, 46 percent of the children leaving care had been in care for less than six months. This illustrates the success of Public Law 96-272 discussed earlier and related state efforts.



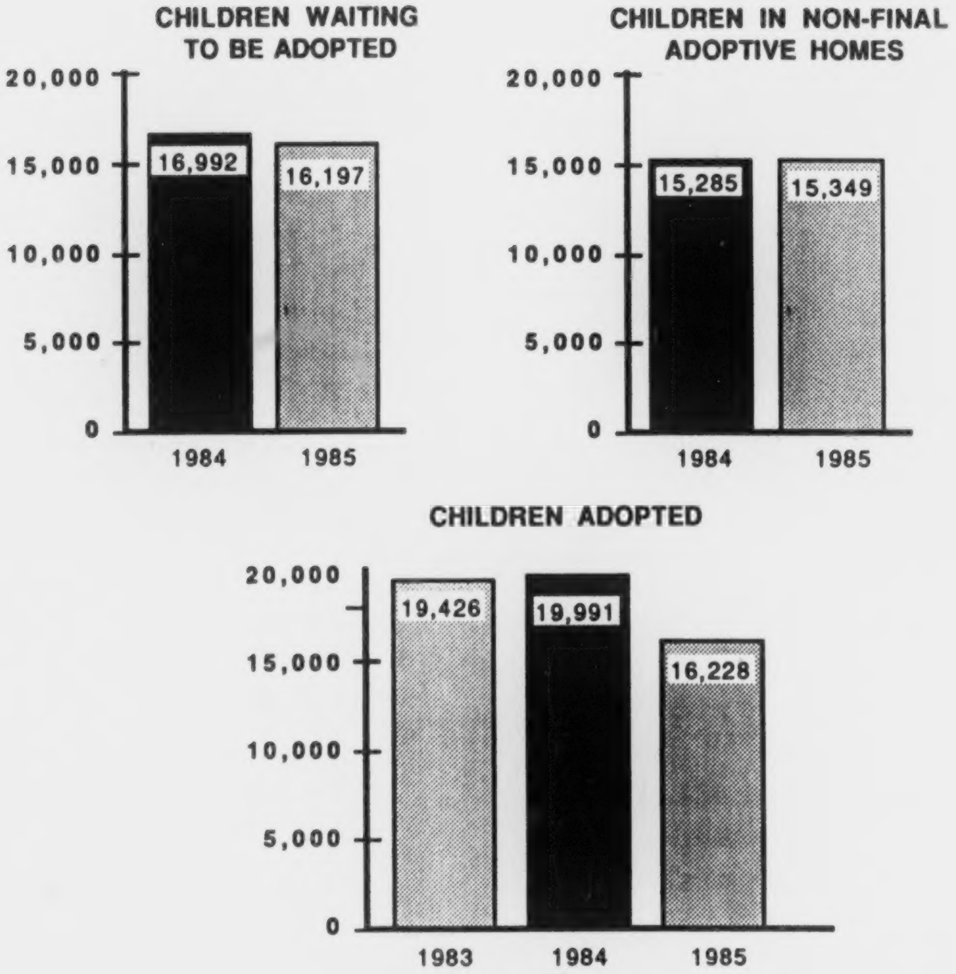
VCIS Exhibit 17

VCIS Exhibit 17 shows placement goals for children in substitute care. Recent priorities given to permanency planning and family based services in many states have led to a placement goal of reunification with family and relatives for 55 percent of children in substitute care, up from 47 percent in 1983. These goals are for 118,284 children in care in 19 states.



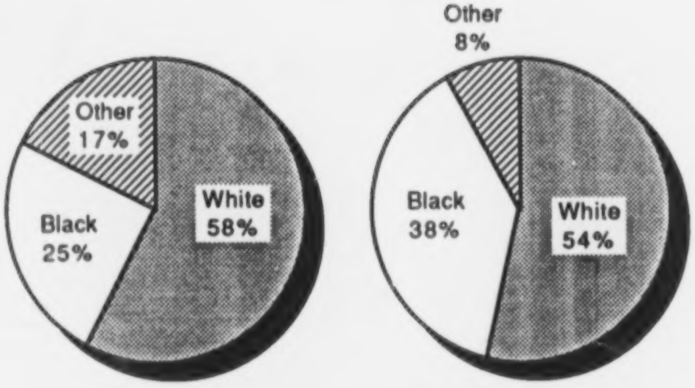
VCIS Exhibit 18

VCIS Exhibit 18 shows the outcomes of children leaving substitute care. Two-thirds are reunited with their families, and 8 percent are adopted (1985 data from 31 states). In 1984, 10 percent of children were adopted from substitute care (1984 data from 24 states).

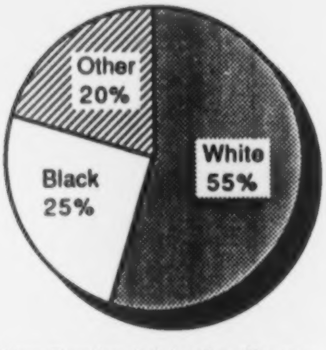


VCIS Exhibit 20

VCIS Exhibit 20 shows the VCIS adoption populations. In 1985, there were 16,197 children waiting to be adopted, and 15,349 children were in non-final adoptive homes. In 1985, 16,228 children were adopted. Ninety-eight percent of the adopted children were not related to their adoptive parents, but 39 percent were adopted by their unrelated foster parents. Prior to 1984, VCIS reporting did not distinguish between children free for adoption who were awaiting adoptive placement and children in non-final adoptive homes. Since the introduction of the non-final adoption category, most states have separated their reporting for non-final and finalized adoptions.



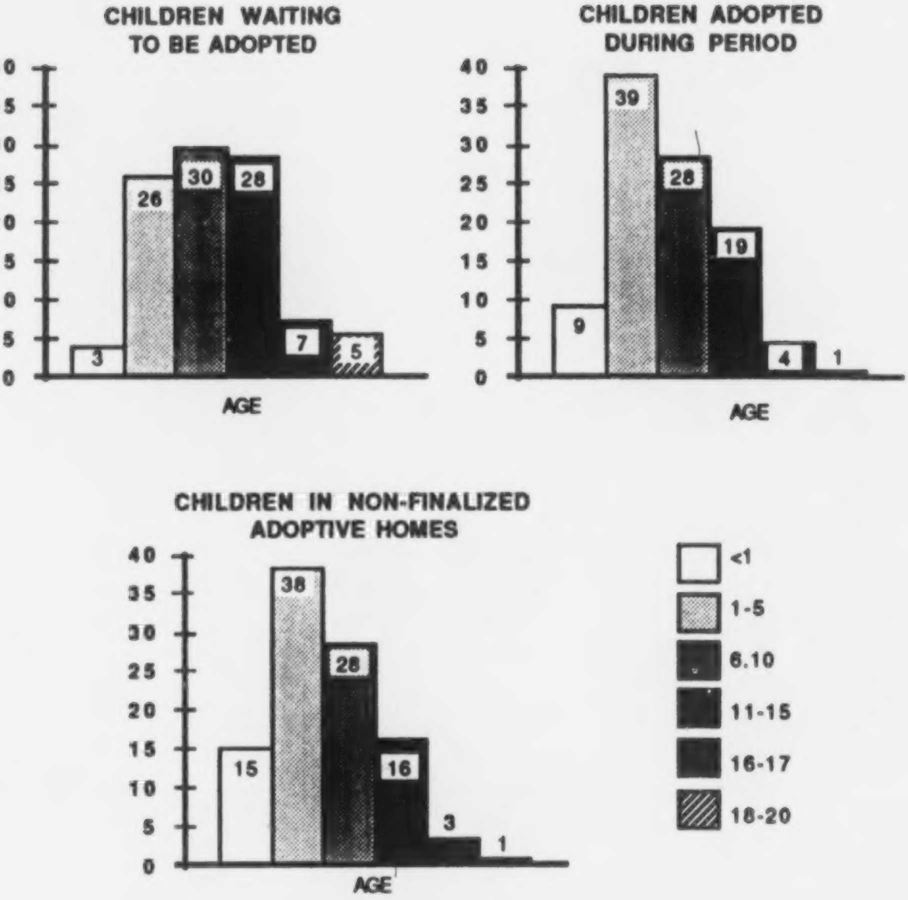
Adopted Waiting to be Adopted



Non-Finalized Adoptive Homes

VCIS Exhibit 22

VCIS Exhibit 22 shows the race/ethnicity of children adopted in 1985, waiting to be adopted in 1985, and in non-finalized adoptive homes in 1985. The data are from 22 states. Black children with a goal of adoption suffer a major disadvantage in comparison with whites and other minorities. While blacks represent 25 percent of children adopted or placed in adoptive homes, they represent 38 percent of children free for adoption and awaiting placement. Other minority children are adopted in proportions much greater than their share of the children waiting for placement.

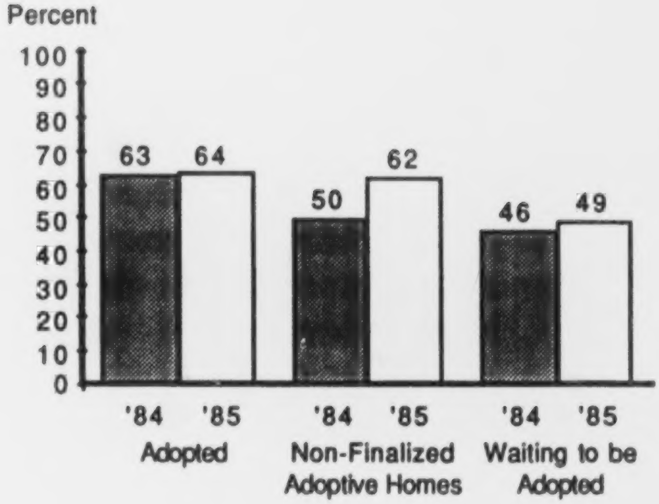

CHILDREN WAITING TO BE ADOPTED

CHILDREN ADOPTED DURING PERIOD

CHILDREN IN NON-FINALIZED ADOPTIVE HOMES

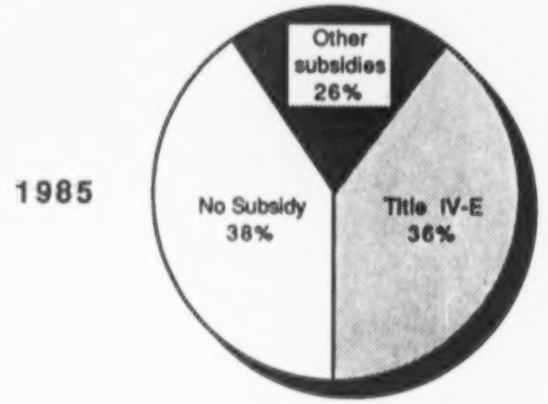
VCIS Exhibit 23

VCIS Exhibit 23 shows the ages of children waiting to be adopted in 1985, children adopted during 1985, and children in non-finalized adoptive homes in 1985 (data from 30, 30, and 24 states, respectively). Older children with a goal of adoption suffer a strong disadvantage in comparison with younger children. There are five times as many children under age one in non-final adoptive homes as there are waiting to be adopted. There are 50 percent more children age 1-5 in non-final adoptive homes as there are children waiting for adoption. There are nearly twice as many children age 11-15 waiting to be adopted as there are children in non-final adoptive homes, however.



VCIS Exhibit 24

VCIS Exhibit 24 shows the percentages of children with special needs for children who were adopted, in non-finalized adoptive homes, and waiting to be adopted in 1984 and 1985 (data from 20, 13, and 20 states, respectively). The impact of adoption subsidies is reflected in the high proportion of children with special needs adopted, particularly in comparison to those waiting to be adopted.



VCIS Exhibit 26

VCIS Exhibit 26 shows the percentage of childern in substitute care who are authorized for adoption subsidies. By 1985, 62 percent of substitute care adoptions were supported by adoption subsidies. The percent of adoptions supported by subsidies has grown dramatically since 1983, when 32 percent of substitute care adoptions were supported by subsidies (1983 data from 19 states; 1985 data from 23 states).

Now that the status of foster care and adoption has been presented from the VCIS data, NCFA will review selected recommendations to make further improvements made by the President's Interagency Task Force on Adoption (1988). The Task Force recommended:

- that states should involve citizen foster care review boards to monitor children in foster care,
- specific state and agency guidelines to limit the time spent in efforts to reunite children with their biological families,
- adherence to specific time lines for case review, dispositional hearing, filing termination of parental rights, recruitment of adoptive families, scheduling the court case, and actual placement,
- greater accountability for caseworkers and attorneys planning for foster children, and
- improved data systems to track children in foster care.

53. Adoption Disruption and Dissolution

Adoption disruption describes adoptive placements that end with the return of the child to the agency prior to legalization. Dissolution is the terminology for removal of the child after legalization. NCFA will try to address both topics generally in this chapter, and refer the reader to more specific studies. Although most adoptions work out very well, the disruptions and dissolutions that do occur tend to be associated with adoptive parents adjusting to children who were previously physically or sexually abused or who had serious behavioral problems, and were not informed in advance, were not adequately prepared in advance, or did not fully understand the implications of the child's history. The importance of full and accurate pre-placement information on the child, and post-legal adoptive services for the adoptive circle (a topic discussed extensively elsewhere in this Factbook) may be the keys to minimizing adoption disruption. In some cases, agencies and adoptive parents knowingly undertake high-risk adoptions because both know that the calculated risk of potential disruption is low, and outweighs other options for the child such as continued foster care or institutionalization. The majority of these high-risk placements are successful because of the determination of the adoptive parents and because of the preparation given these parents by realistic caseworkers. Some adoptive parents have begun to sue agencies because they allegedly withhold critical information, and that topic is covered elsewhere in this Factbook in the chapter on "Wrongful Adoption".

There is no national estimate of the percentage of adoptions that are disrupted or dissolved, but some small specialized studies of placements give us some insights. Kadushin (1980) reviewed nine studies which monitored 34,000 placements, and found only 1.9 percent that were disrupted. Bass (1975) found a 2.7 percent disruption rate for California public welfare agency placements in 1970, and 7.6 percent in 1973. Tremitiere (1984) studied 45 agencies, and found that disruptions were 1.6 percent of placements for children under six years of age, and 12.0 percent for children who were six to eighteen years of age. Finally, Boyne et.al. (1984) studied 309 placements of special needs children in New Jersey, and found 21.4 percent disrupted. Disruptions and dissolutions may have risen over the years because of increased efforts to place special needs children and older children.

The predictive factors associated with disruptions and dissolutions have begun to emerge, and three recent studies which highlight those factors will be briefly summarized. An ACYF (1986) sponsored study entitled Legacies of Loss: Visions of Gain--An Inside Look at Adoption Disruption compared 64 disrupted adoptions with 171 stable adoptions, and drew these comparisons:

	Disrupted	Stable
Average age at placement	11.0 years	6.6 years
Number of prior placements	3.9	2.7
Number of days child was legally free prior to this placement	975	288
Child had prior history of abuse	86%	58%
Child had behavioral problems	67%	37%
Child had a prior disruption	34%	12%
Child soiled bed clothes	36%	18%
Child steals	30%	8%
Child has serious eating disorders	25%	4%
Child has physically injured others	20%	7%

Fewer disruptions also occurred to married couples, families with prior adoptive experience, couples with an equal commitment to adoption, and where there was no conflict with siblings. Group sessions with the prior care taker (the "goodbye blessing") and the child's receipt of occupational/physical/speech therapy also averted disruptions.

Barth (1988) studied 927 adoptions (including 120 which were initially high-risk placements) placed at age four and over in 13 California counties from 1980-84, with followup assessments one-to-five years later. Two-thirds of the children were placed alone rather than with siblings, 81 percent were placed in a family of their own race, 26 percent were placed in a family with the same religion as birthparents, and 21 percent were placed in a family with the same educational level as birthparents. Almost half (45 percent) were freed for adoption as a result of nonvoluntary termination of parental rights, and the mean age at placement was 7.2 years. Only 10 percent of all placements ended in disruption, and the average time from placement to disruption was 18 months. Disrupted placements were associated with the following characteristics:

- child not adopted by foster parent
- older child
- child had previous placements
- child previously sexually abused
- child had serious behavioral problems (meanness, fighting, threatening, vandalism)
- adoptive mother had higher level of education

- adoptive family received inaccurate preplacement information about the child (too positive, not realistic)

- adoptive family received fewer postplacement services

Subsidies were found to be clearly beneficial in avoiding disruption, even when the child had behavioral problems. Subsidies averaged $229 per month, and most subsidies were to extend three years or less. Insufficient subsidies to cover medical and therapeutic procedures, particularly in high-risk placements, were associated with disruptions. A number of factors were found not to be associated with disruptions, including parental ethnicity, age, religion, marital status, employment of the adoptive mother, number of other children in the home, the presence of nonadopted biological siblings in the home, previous experience as a foster or adoptive parent, simultaneous stressful events at the time of placement, frequency of contact with friends, or the reason for adopting.

Festinger's 1986 book entitled Necessary Risk: A Study of Adoptions and Disrupted Adoptive Placements gives us yet additional insights on disruptions. Festinger studied 1,500 children age six and over in New York City at 24 monthly intervals. Interviews were held with disrupted families and the caseworkers. She found 11 percent disrupted, 74 percent of the children were adopted, and the outcome of the remaining 15 percent was not yet known after 24 months. Disruption rates were higher for older children, children placed alone without siblings, children with more prior placements, and children who were older at last contact with a biological parent. The following reasons for the disruptions were given:

- parents felt they could not cope with child behavioral problems (54 percent of disrupted cases)

- children complained of discomfort in the home, felt they were not being equally treated, that rules were too rigid, or that their own style of living was not really accepted (21 percent)

- motivational problems, including that the adoptive parent was really interested in having a companion rather than a child, the adoption was prompted by a desire for a sibling for a biological child, and lack of family commitment to the adoption (19 percent)

- a "pull" on the child from members of the child's biological family or former foster parents that interfered with the process of attachment to the adoptive family (15 percent)

- marital difficulties between current partners and problems with former spouses (12 percent)

- lack of motivation of the child, the child did not really want to be adopted, the child feared too much closeness and acted so as to defeat the placement (12 percent)

- environmental stresses, including changes in household composition, stress from a death in the extended family, emergence of problems in biological offspring, and opposition by family members who lived elsewhere (10 percent)

- needs of the children and families did not mesh, child needed more attention than the family could provide, family wished for more closeness than the child could offer (9 percent)

- physical illness of adoptive parent (5 percent)

- allegations of parental misconduct (4 percent of cases of disruption)

The varied reasons for disruption point to the complex nature of parent-child interactions, personality mismatches, and situational elements. After the placements disrupted, three-fourths of the children were directly placed into another family. Therefore, disruptions are not the final blow to the children. Given the prior histories that children bring into placements, the variations in home environments, the flaws in human nature, the variable preparations given by caseworkers to prospective adoptive parents, it is inevitable that some disruptions will occur. Greater awareness of the research presented here should help to avoid many future disruptions and strengthen adoption services.

ADOPTED CHILDREN'S ISSUES

This chapter is for teenagers who might happen to pick up this Factbook. Chapter 55 shows that adoption improves children's lives. Chapter 56 dispels the myth of the "adopted child syndrome".

54. For Adopted Kids Only: Reading Just for Early Teens Who Are Adopted

"We have a brand new baby,
And there isn't any doubt
We got just want we wanted -
Because we picked our baby out!"

As an adopted child, you may have been told this by your adoptive parents because they wanted you to know how much they wanted you, to love you, and to nurture you. But you may have felt this placed a burden on you to live up to some great expectations because you are a "special" child. While every person is special and unique, everyone is also ordinary in that they simply want to live normal lives in a loving family.

You've skimmed many parts of this Factbook, and now realize how researchers have attempted to study every facet of adoption, which is simply one of the many ways that families are formed. But maybe the research, statistics, regulations, and court cases don't interest you so much as how your parents told you that you were adopted, what that means to them, and what it means to your view of your heritage, your present life, and your future plans. There was no research to guide your parents on what age you should be when they tell you about your adoption, so they probably followed the advice of the social worker, agency, or a good book on adoption. NCFA has been working for nine years to help families formed through adoption understand a number of important facts:

1. Your adoption was a natural occurrence. Every year there are 50,000 adoptions, and so there are millions of adopted kids and adults living in the United States. There are many people who want children but can't have them, and many people who can have babies, but can't provide homes for them, yet wanted them to have good homes--adoption brought those two groups together in their desire to do what was best for you. Good parenting goes far beyond just giving birth. You already know that because you have schoolmates who are not adopted, and some of them don't have very good relationships with their parents. Good parenting includes caring for you, talking with you about your feelings, helping you with your schoolwork, encouraging you to learn new things, disciplining you when you break the rules, and teaching you responsibility to prepare you for the time when you become an adult and start thinking about forming your own family. As a teenager, you may have disagreements with your parents, but this "tug of war" that occasionally goes on isn't because you are adopted. It is a natural occurence that happens in almost every family where parents try to guide their children, teens try to gain more freedom, and parents try to help the children behave responsibly towards others.

2. Your adoption was a loving choice. Your birthmother made a difficult but loving choice. She cared deeply about having you grow up in a home where you could have love, security, and more advantages in life than she could give you. She might have even specified the types of adoptive parents who could adopt you. Most birthmothers don't try to contact the child they placed for adoption because they knew that you and your family would bond in a permanent way best if left alone to develop in your own way.

   Your adoptive parents also made a loving choice. They may have spent years on an agency waiting list until you came along, and have invested many years of their loving energy in raising you. They are your parents because they have been parenting you for all this time, doing their best to prepare you for your adult life, and looking forward to being loving grandparents when you have your own children. Biological parents don't know exactly how their children will develop any better than adoptive parents do. All parents take a risk in that way, but all have great hopes that the love and energy that they invest in their children will be rewarding for them and their children.

3. Good communication with your parents is important, and will continue to be important as you grow older. Just as you learn more about yourself and your adoptive parents as you grow older, you will gain more insights about the circumstances of your adoption in many different discussions, in many different contexts. By now, you are much more comfortable in your understanding of these circumstances, but you and your parents should continue to share information about your feelings. The more openly you express yourself to your parents, the more comfortable you will be with your self-identity. If you think you and your parents are having serious communication problems, discuss with your parents the possibility of going to a nearby adoption agency for some discussions. Agency professionals are very skilled in helping teenagers and their parents adjust to each other and communicate more openly. Good communication with parents is often difficult for most teenagers, and so you have to do your part everyday, as do your parents, in keeping the lines of communication open about all your feelings, problems, hopes, and successes.

4. Most adopted kids have some curiosity about their biological parents. It is natural for teenagers to wonder about their biological parents, what their lives may be like now, whether they are still alive, and what circumstances made them decide to place you for adoption in hopes of giving you a better life. Usually these things remain as curiosities, sort of like people wondering what life was like for their great grandparents in the old country before they migrated to America to start a new life. For many of you, this curiosity will have been pretty well satisfied by now, and you now have more immediate concerns, like struggling with math, buying the latest record, developing a new friendship. Sometimes your unresolved feelings about this curiosity can be explored further and resolved by reading. These are some books for adopted kids of different ages:

You're Our Child: The Adoption Experience; Smith & Miroff, $9.95. This book deals mostly with the questions of those who've adopted a healthy infant, including the question of "how to tell the child he's adopted" and other issues. A book every couple should read before they decide to explore adoption.

Why Was I Adopted?; Livingston, $10.00. This is the standard picture book for young children on the questions about adoption. Includes illustrations of transracial and single-parent adoptions. Buy before or after you adopt.

How It Feels To Be Adopted; Krementz, $11.95. An excellent book, featuring interviews with and pictures of adolescents who were adopted, that can serve many purposes. A book by teens, it is excellent for the young adult to read alone.

So You're Adopted; Powledge, $9.95. This book is written about and for teens, and it's a balanced discussion of what adoption means to various people. Puts adoption, as one of life's experiences, into context. It doesn't patronize.

It's Fun To Be Me; Long and Smulcer, $2.40. A coloring book to help parents explain adoption to their children. Positive, fun, low-key!

Susan And Gordon Adopt A Baby; Freudberg & Geiss, $3.95. A wonderful book using the Sesame Street characters to explain how Miles joins Susan's and Gordon's family through adoption.

The Mulberry Bird: Story Of An Adoption; Brodzinsky, $9.95. A tender story for ages 5 to 10 which tells of the difficult decisions a birthmother makes out of love for her baby. Provides a gentle way to help children talk about this often secret part of their thoughts.

Real For Sure Sister; Angel, $12.95. Story of family love for 8 to 11 year olds. Discusses the many concerns children have when a new sibling joins the family--and the special ones when the family is formed through adoption.

Adoption Is For Always; Girard, $10.95. A story of the emotions and confusion a little girl experiences at learning that she was adopted and the process she goes through to come to a positive understanding of her special relationship with her mother and her father.

All of the books above deal with the consciousness kids have about their being adopted. The kids are very diverse, as all kids are, and reading about them may be a basis for kids and their parents to communicate more openly.

5. Most adopted kids do not search for their biological parents. Fewer than one out of every 20 adopted kids will begin to search for their biological parents after they reach adulthood. The reason so few search is because, once they have reached age 18 or 21 (the age at which searches are facilitated by state laws and mutual consent registries as discussed elsewhere in this Factbook), most adopted persons have resolved the issues that concern them about their adoption. Most know that their adoptive parents are their real parents, because they have invested twenty years of time, energy, and love in parenting you. And you have a similar investment in your relationship with them.

   Nonetheless, a few of you may decide to undertake a search. Fortunately, it is a decision which you can put off until you reach adulthood. Most of the research shows that adoptees who search have had communication difficulties with their adoptive parents and unresolved identity problems. Knowing this fact gives you all the more reason to try to have open communication now within your family.

For more advanced reading, you might want to tackle some of the more adult-oriented books listed in the references for this Factbook. They include books by Wilkinson (1985), Smith and Miroff (1987), and Plumez (1987). And please feel free to write NCFA and tell us how you feel about reading this chapter that we wrote just for you.

55. Characteristics of Adopted Children

Bachrach's work (1986) based on the 1982 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) discussed extensively in chapters 40 and 44 provides nationally-representative estimates of the characteristics of adopted children. (Her results also reaffirmed Bonham's (1977) research based on the 1976 NSFG).

Text Table 55A. Characteristics of Children Living with Adoptive, Never Married, Currently Married, or Previously Married Mother: U.S., 1982

	Children living with...			
	Adoptive mother	Never married mother	Currently married mother	Previously married mother
Live with white mother	94%	39%	88%	70%
Live with married mother	90%	0%	100%	0%
Mother works	51%	35%	48%	64%
Mother has 13 years or more education	42%	14%	38%	28%
Living below poverty level	2%	62%	11%	40%
Family income at least three times higher than poverty level	54%	8%	44%	15%

Only two percent of adopted children lived in poverty in 1982, compared with 62 percent of non-adopted children living with their never married mothers. Adopted children were more likely to belong to families with incomes at least three times higher than poverty level than any other categories where marital status of mother is compared. Adoptive children were more likely to have working mothers, and mothers with 13 years or more of education. Adopted children therefore tend to be more fortunate, on average, than children living with their biological mothers, whether their mothers are married or not (Bachrach, 1986).

Another study (Wingard, 1987) compared California adoptions which were handled by public agencies, private agencies, and private individuals (independent adoptions). In looking at 1981-82 adoptions, 11 percent of the children placed by private agencies and 34 percent of the children placed by public agencies had health problems. Children were placed with white parents in 76 percent of the independent adoptions, 72 percent of the private agency adoptions, and 55 percent of the public agency adoptions. Children placed in independent adoptions went to families with median incomes of $32,499, as compared with $32,029 for private agency adoptions and $25,802 for public agency adoptions. Therefore, this study points out that some adoptees begin life with health problems, yet they are often placed with white parents with relatively high median incomes.

In general, children do very well with their adoptive families. Other research presented in this book on transracial adoption and foreign adoption show similar benefits derived by adopted children.

56. Myth of the "Adopted Child Syndrome"

A destructive myth is being spread that adoptees are more likely than other children to be anti-social or to suffer difficult and debilitating emotional problems. The press often unthinkingly points out that a person who does something bad is adopted, but never says that a biological child who does the same thing is the "biological child of Mr. and Mrs. Smith". The point that a criminal may be an adopted person is usually not germane and fuels the myth of the "adopted child syndrome".

The term "adopted child syndrome" first gained national notoriety in a murder defense in which fourteen-year-old Patrick DeGelleke set fire to his adoptive parents' home in 1984, and they burned to death. Psychiatrist David Kirschner testified in DeGelleke's defense that the "adopted child syndrome" was a contributing factor to Patrick's psychotic rage. The defense attorney relied on this assertion in the boy's defense, and the press latched on to the term. Patrick was nonetheless found guilty of second degree murder and arson (New York Times, 2/18/86 p. B2 and 3/1/86 p. 27). While Kirschner allows that the majority of adopted children develop normally, NCFA's William Pierce noted in a New York Times article (4/19/86, p. 27) that great damage has been done in stigmatizing adoptees.

Kirschner maintains that he has seen 250 adoptees in 25 years of psychotherapy, and that adoptees are more likely to be characterized by

> "pathological lying, manipulativeness, shallowness of attachment, a lack of meaningful relationships, stealing, truancy, provocative disruptive behavior to a parent, teachers and other authority figures, threatening to or actually running away, promiscuity, academic under-achievement or learning problems, firesetting and increasingly anti-social behavior, frequently leading to court custody and trouble with the law. The pattern also often includes an extremely negative or extremely grandiose self-image, impulsiveness, low frustration tolerance and an absence of normal guilt or anxiety. While not all of these behaviors, of course, will be present in every case they do tend to occur together in many, many of the adopted children seen clinically."

Kirschner's statement above was made at the May 30, 1987 American Adoption Congress National Conference in Boston (Reported in National Adoption Reports, 1987). **NCFA maintains that no such syndrome exists.**

Kirschner and some others maintain that adoptees are overrepresented in psychotherapy and psychiatric treatment. NCFA believes that adoptive parents are used to dealing with agencies, and if developmental problems occur, they go to agencies, where problems become known. Furthermore, adoptive parents tend to be wealthier, a group which has the resources to seek help, even to solve the "normal" developmental problems which nonadoptive families have (but do not have the resources to seek guidance). In fact, NCFA encourages adoptive families to use post-legal adoption services, and reviews the uses of those services in chapter 37.

Two major studies have laid to rest the myth that adopted persons have more emotional problems than the nonadopted. Marquis and Detweiler (1985) studied 46 adopted and 121 nonadopted persons ages 13 to 21, all drawn from a normal (not institutionalized) population. Adopted persons saw themselves as being more in control of their lives and had more confidence in their own judgment than did the nonadopted. On numerous other comparisons, adopted persons tended to view others more positively, had a more internal locus of control, and saw their (adoptive) parents as significantly more nurturant, comforting, predictable, protectively concerned, and helpful than did non-adoptees.

Another study by Leslie Stein and Janet Hoopes, published by the Child Welfare League of America in 1985, tracked adoptive families for nearly 25 years. It concluded in part that:

"Evidence suggesting that the adoptee has greater or more sustained difficulty with the tasks of adolescence was not found, indicating that adoptive status, in and of itself, is not predictive of heightened stress among adolescents... as a group, the adolescent adoptees were doing quite well."

The above studies focused only on adolescents, but what about older adoptees? Brinich and Brinich (1982) studied 5,135 adult and child patients registered for psychiatric services from 1969 to 1978 and found 113 patients who had been adopted as children. Their conclusions were as follows:

(1) The incidence of 16 adoptees for every 1,000 adult clinic registrants was below their estimate of the number of adoptees in the general adult population,

(2) The diagnoses assigned to adult adoptees did not differ notably from the diagnoses assigned to nonadopted adult patients,

(3) The overrepresentation of adoptees in their Children's Service patients (5.0 percent vs. the expected 2.2 percent) is because adoptive parents are drawn from parents at or above the median socioeconomic strata. These families have the resources to use more psychiatric services if problems occur, and tend to use psychiatric services more often because these families are already connected into a network of agency support services,

(4) **"It is our conclusion that adoption is a relatively successful social solution to two important social problems: the unwanted child and the infertile couple... Our data suggest that human adaptive capacities are such that the majority of adoptions can justly be characterized as successes; certainly those authors...who have emphasized the association between adoption and psychopathology will find little in our data to support their view." (P. 493).**

Hopefully, this brief research review will be helpful to the media in destroying the myth of the "adopted child syndrome". It is scientifically inaccurate to stigmatize adopted persons with negative stories. Too often soap operas use the adoption issue to heighten the intrigue to raise ratings. Adopted people are neither strange nor special. They have successes and failures, like nonadoptees, and deserve the right to live their lives with families that are real and permanent, without sensational headlines.

Financial Issues

The next three chapters review the costs of adoption, tax laws and insurance benefits on adoption, and business firms which offer adoption benefits.

57. What Does It Cost To Adopt?

It can cost nothing, $6,900, $12,800, or $50,000 to adopt, depending on whether one chooses a variety of legal adoption routes or some illegal, black market methods. This chapter will focus on the legitimate range in agency adoption costs.

Public agencies are subsidized by the State Welfare Department, and some private agencies are subsidized by foundations, wealthy individuals, many middle class constituents, the United Way, or church groups. In these cases, the charge to the adoptive couple is less than the actual cost of maternity home, hospital delivery, home study counseling, fees and travel for foreign adoption, legal fees, and post adoptive supervision.

A study of the average fee collected from adoptive families by NCFA's member agencies during 1987 was $5,204--slightly less than one-half of the actual expenses of providing full, comprehensive services in connection with the adoption of a healthy infant. The difference is usually made up by fund-raising, endowments, and contributions.

A recent 4-3 ruling by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (In re Baby Girl D.; Pa SupCt., No. 25 W.D. Appeal Docket 1985; 11/21/86) has rendered a sliding-scale fee illegal in Pennsylvania calling it tantamount to baby selling. In another case decided by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (In re Adoption of B.A.B.; J-150-87; No. 100 W.D. Appeal Docket 1986; argued 9/21/87), prospective adoptive parents secured the services of an attorney and agreed to pay his $60 hourly fee for all services. His fee totalled $3,160, but the orphan's court determined that this fee was excessive because he could only be awarded his legal fees but not fees for acting as an intermediary. It is Pennsylvania public policy that an intermediary is not to profit in an adoption placement.

A 1986 study of 120 NCFA agencies also showed that one-fourth of the placements by NCFA agencies were arranged for **no fee**. These no fee adoptions included both healthy infants and special needs placements. Many special needs placements were arranged for a modest fee of $1,000. The 1987 study showed that sixty-seven of 132 NCFA agencies had flat fees, with the highest fee set at $8,500. Sixty-three had sliding fees based on income with up to $14,000 for adoptive families with annual incomes of $90,000 per year or more, and much lower charges for adoptive couples with modest incomes. This study also compared NCFA agency fees with agencies not affiliated with NCFA. For example, a very large operation based in Georgia has a flat fee of $20,000, and this fee does not cover attorney's fees for the termination of rights of biological parents, attorney fees for adopting the child, interstate adoptions, and certain charges for the baby's health care and foster care. The chart on the following page shows the range of agency fees often encountered.

Domestic Adoptions

Core Costs:

Maternity home care for birthmother @ $40-80 per day (3 months of pregnancy and 10 days post partum)		$5,000
Normal prenatal and hospital care for birthmother and child		5,000
Preadoption foster care for infant		600
*Counseling for adoptive parents (20-40 hours of home study and post placement supervision @ $30-70 per hour)		2,400
Legal fees		1,000-1,400
	TOTAL	14,000-14,400

Special Considerations:

Cesarean Section		additional 2,000
	TOTAL	16,000-16,400
Interstate Adoption		additional 500
	TOTAL	$14,500-14,900

International Adoptions:

*Counseling for Adoptive Parents (home study and post placement supervision)		2,400
Legal fees		1,000-2,400
Travel		1,500-5,000
Fee to foreign agency		2,000-3,000
	TOTAL	$6,900-12,800

*For each couple who is approved for adoption, the agency must do a home study for 1½ couples.

58. Tax Laws and Insurance Benefits Affecting Adoptions

When NCFA's 1985 Adoption Factbook was published, Federal tax law permitted up to a $1,500 deduction for adopting a special needs child. This deduction has been repealed and efforts to include any deduction, and deductions for all types of adoptions, have stalled. S-268 was introduced January 6, 1987, and recommended the reimbursement of up to $2,000 of adoption expenses for Federal employees. H.R. 2221, introduced April 29, 1987 was the parallel bill in the House of Representatives. H.R. 2858 recommended that all Federal employee health insurance plans cover adoption expenses and infertility treatments. S. 1733 introduced September 30, 1987 would allow parents who adopt to deduct up to $5,000 of their expenses. H.R. 3374 is parallel to S. 1733, but it would also allow up to a $7,000 deduction for an international adoption. In addition, both bills would allow corporations to treat the costs of providing adoption benefits as a normal business expense, like other employment benefits. In the U.S. Senate, Senators Gordon Humphrey (R-NH), a Co-chair of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, and Paul Simon (D-IL) introduced S. 2797 on Sept. 16, 1987. The bill would remove discriminatory provisions in the Social Security Act which do not allow many adopted children to collect dependent's benefits even when similarly situated biological children are available. At this writing, none of these Federal bills have become law, and all need to be reintroduced in the new Congress. The only similar legislation that did pass the 100th Congress was S.269 introduced by Senator Humphrey, and H.R. 2220, introduced by Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO), which will reimburse members of the military for up to $2,000 of their adoption expenses. This new benefit will only be available to military families until September 30, 1989, however, unless Congress acts to extend the benefit.

In 1986, when Congress repealed the $1,500 special needs tax deduction, a new special needs reimbursement program was created. Families who adopt children with special needs are to be reimbursed by state and federal funds for their one time adoption expenses. Unfortunately, this program is yet to be implemented as regulations were only published by the Department of Health and Human Services late in 1988. However, all families who adopted any special needs child since the beginning of 1987 are, by law, supposed to be able to obtain reimbursement through the state governments.

Adoption became an issue in the most recent Presidential race, and President Bush campaigned on the issue of "adoption, not abortion" (although he believes there are justifiable reasons for certain categories of abortion). President Bush is an adoptive grandparent, and Vice President Quayle has a brother and a sister who are adopted. Shortly before this writing, in fact, President Bush called for establishment of a $3,000 deduction for families who adopt special needs children. NCFA will redouble its efforts to have supportive adoption legislation passed, and fervently hopes that the current administration will sign and fund that legislation.

A number of State laws on insurance coverage for adopted children have passed, and a summary of them is reprinted from OURS (May-June 1988, pp. 12-13) by permission on the following two pages.

State Laws On Insurance Coverage For Adopted Children

Arkansas

The Arkansas Legislature recently passed Act 99 of 1987, which specifically deals with adopted infants. The Act provides that coverage for the adopted child will begin at the date of birth if the petition for adoption is filed within 60 days of the birth. This would eliminate pre-existing condition limitations for infants. Coverage for older children is provided on the same basis as other dependents. Like other dependents, pre-existing condition provisions are applied by the insurer.

California

The California Legislature on July 9, 1987, sent to the Governor Assembly Bill 1822, which would require health insurance coverage for minor children from and after the moment the child is placed in the physical custody of the insured for adoption. It states that 40 percent of all Californians eligible for group health benefits are covered under "self-insured" plans. Their jurisdiction over such plans was preempted by the Employees Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, so federal action would still be necessary.

Florida

All health insurance policies that provide coverage for a member of the family of the insured shall also provide that the health insurance benefits applicable for children shall be payable with respect to an adopted child of the insured. This coverage begins from the moment of placement in the residence of the insured. Pre-existing conditions apply to adopted children in Florida and may bar coverage for certain disabilities.

Illinois

Adopted children cannot be excluded from accident or health insurance coverage solely because the child is an adopted child. Under Illinois law, a child who is the custody of the insured, pursuant to an interim court order of adoption vesting temporary care of the child in the insured, is an adopted child, regardless of whether a final order granting adoption is ultimately issued. Discrimination against individuals solely because of handicaps or disabilities is not permitted. However, discrimination or distinctions based on sound actuarial principles or those related to actual or reasonably anticipated experience is permitted.

Iowa

Iowa does not have specific legislation prohibiting discrimination against adopted children, but has said insurance companies and State offices will make every effort to ensure that unfair discrimination is prohibited in all insurance practices and that insurance companies will conform to the spirit--if not the letter--of the law.

Kentucky

Kentucky does not interpret the statute prohibiting discrimination against adopted children as prohibiting health insurers from refusing to insure adopted children who have a pre-existing disability. This is because the underwriting guideline applies to all children with pre-existing health conditions. The statute does not come into play because there is no discrimination between the treatment of adopted children and biological children.

Louisiana

Louisiana law does not specifically address the eligibility of adopted children for insurance coverage, but it appears that coverage usually commences concurrent with the date the adoption becomes final.

Massachusetts

Adopted children are covered from the date of the filing of a petition to adopt and thereafter if the child has been residing in the home of the policyholder or benefactor as a foster child for whom the holder or beneficiary has been receiving foster care payments, or, in all other cases, immediately from the date of placement of the child by a licensed placement agency.

New Hampshire

New Hampshire believes that children with disabilities should be subject to pre-existing limitations in insurance contracts, since they constitute an additional risk depending upon degree of disability. Since health insurance policies are issued or rejected based on the medical evidence of insurability contained in the application, the introduction of a disabled child into this equation would undermine the fundamentals of insurance underwriting altogether. Underwriting of insurance is, by its very nature, discriminatory. New Hampshire recommends allowing insurance companies to surcharge the policies covering such children on a sliding scale depending upon the severity of the disability. Such a course of action would require enabling legislation; however, it would specifically point up the problems involved as well as guaranteeing that these people would not be denied health insurance coverage.

(Reprinted by permission)

North Carolina

North Carolina General Statute 48-23 states that the legal effect of adoption is to vest in the adopted child the same legal status as a biological child. North Carolina laws, however, do not require insurers to cover pre-existing conditions except in the instance of newborn infants.

North Dakota

North Dakota recently adopted House Bill No. 1329, which requires all individuals and group health insurance policies that provide family coverage to also provide benefits applicable for children payable from the date of placement with respect to an adopted child.

Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Insurance Code requires that, for purposes of coverage, adopted children are to be treated in the same manner as biological children. Coverage for adopted children commences from the time the child is placed in the custody of the adoptive parents, regardless of whether the adoption becomes final. Thirty-one days written notice is required. Where at the time of the custody or adoption the child is 6 months or younger, the child would be considered a newborn. Therefore, there would be no exclusion of pre-existing conditions because coverage for the adopted or biological newborn commenced at the time of birth. However, where the adopted child is 6 months or older, coverage for this adopted child, or a biological child, would be subject to exclusions for pre-existing conditions.

Oregon

Oregon has no statute dealing with adoption and insurance coverage. Each insurance company administers insuring adoptive children by established underwriting rules of that company. There is no uniform rule, and no rule concerning when coverage begins.

South Dakota

South Dakota interprets its statutes as requiring that adopted children be fully covered under any health insurance policy that provides for coverage of dependents, and that is in force at the beginning of the six-month "bonding period." Generally, the bonding period begins when the child is placed in the adoptive parent's home and coverage must begin at the time of placement. To the extent that disability is caused by premature birth, congenital birth defects or birth abnormalities, the statutes prohibit exclusion of the disabling condition in disabled adopted children as pre-existing.

Vermont

The state's Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan will pick up a child from the time of placement if the intent is clear to proceed with the adoption and raise the child in a normal "parent-child" relationship. It has no knowledge as to how commercial carriers handle this situation.

Virginia

An individual insurance policy cannot exclude coverage for a covered dependent child whose health condition was present at birth. A group insurance policy may exclude coverage for a pre-existing condition. However, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Virginia contends that, through its open enrollment program, it will insure anyone, regardless of health status. In Virginia, individual companies decide when to begin coverage for an adopted child. A person who has adopted a child with special needs in Virginia is automatically eligible for a state subsidy to provide for special services to the child which the adoptive parents cannot afford. These include benefits for medical, surgical dental care, and hospitalization. There is no means tests to receive this subsidy.

Washington

A child of an insured, subscriber, or enrollee is considered a dependent child for insurance purposes when physically placed with the insured and upon assumption by the insured of the financial responsibility for the medical expenses of the child. Under Washington law, health care service contractors and health maintenance organizations are permitted under Washington law to apply pre-existing condition contract provisions to adopted children, and may elect to refuse to provide coverage for a particular disability, as long as it is done on a non-discriminatory basis.

Wisconsin

Once a child is adopted, an insurer must apply the same standards to the child as those that apply to biological children. For example, if the insurer applies a waiting period for pre-existing conditions to an insured's biological children, the insurer can apply a waiting period for pre-existing conditions for the adoptive child as well.

Wyoming

Insurers in Wyoming will cover an adopted child from the time the interlocutory decree is issued by the court. This decree is issued at the time of the placement, generally on the date or the following day after placement. In Wyoming, very severely handicapped children who have been placed for adoption are permitted to continue under Medicaid.

Text adapted from information kindly provided by Stephanie Johnson, administrative assistant, Sen. Gordon Humphrey

(Reprinted by permission)

NCFA UPDATES to May/June 1988 OURS Reprint on "State Laws on Insurance Coverage For Adopted Children"

Florida - For infants, coverage begins from the date of birth, providing there is a written agreement to adopt the child.

Georgia - In 1988, Georgia passed a new law requiring that insurance policies cover adopted children just like newborns. This coverage must include congenital defects.

Louisiana - A 1988 law requires that insurance coverage for adopted children begin at date of placement.

Minnesota - Minnesota law requires that adopted children be treated just like biological children for health insurance purposes. Thus, pre-existing conditions may not be used as criteria by health insurers to deny coverage to newly adopted children, and coverage must begin at date of placement.

New Mexico - A 1988 law required that insurance policies cover adopted children from the date of placement and that coverage must include pre-existing conditions.

South Dakota - A 1988 law specifically required that health insurers must make claim payments during the bonding period.

59. Business Firms and Adoption Benefits

Since its founding in 1980, NCFA has encouraged corporations to establish and broaden benefit programs for adoptive parents and children who have been adopted. Companies provide adoption benefits for three main reasons:

(1) As an equity consideration since adoptive parents are not covered for the pregnancy and hospital expenses associated with adoption costs,

(2) To present a positive pro-family image to employees, and demonstrate its sensitivity to the different ways of building families, and

(3) As a public relations item to generate good will and publicity about the company.

NCFA continues to encourage State governments, the Federal government, corporations, and employee unions to include adoption benefits in their contracts, health plans, and benefits packages.

However, many discrepancies remain. A 1983 survey of 253 companies (described on page 68 of NCFA's 1985 Adoption Factbook) found that 90 percent allowed maternity leave, but only 25 percent allowed leave for adoption. Unpaid paternity leave was allowed by 39 percent of the firms for biological births, but by only 25 percent for adoption. A 1984 survey of 384 of the 1,500 largest U.S. companies found that 28 percent offered adoption benefits (National Adoption Reports, 1986). In 1980, only 10 percent of these large corporations did so. Benefits were varied--76 percent offered unpaid leave, and 32 percent reimbursed employee adoption expenses.

NCFA has developed a draft letter to be used by an employee in writing the employer about adoption benefits (see pp. 69-70 of NCFA's 1985 Adoption Factbook). A useful 12 page booklet entitled "Adoption Benefit Plans: Corporate Response to a Changing Society is available from the National Adoption Exchange, 1218 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

NCFA has assembled a partial list of corporations which offer adoption benefits, and now salutes them by listing them on the following page:

Abbott Laboratories
ACACIA Mutual Life Insurance Company
Aetna Life and Casualty
American Association of Retired Persons
American Can Company
American Express
Apple Computer, Inc.
Banker's Life Company
Bank of America
BarclayAmerican Corporation
Baxter Travenol Laboratories, Inc.
BEST
Campbell Soup Company
Capital Cities/ABC
City of Philadelphia
Champion International Corporation
C.L. Bete Co.
Colgate Palmolive
Control Data Corporation
Covenant Insurance Company
DDB Needham Worldwide
Deseret Mutual Benefit Association
Digital Equipment Corporation
Eastman Kodak
Educational Testing Service
Eli Lilly and Company
Emery Worldwide Corp.
Emett and Chandler Illinois, Inc.
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
Felt Products Manufacturing Company
First Pennsylvania Bank
Foote, Cone and Belding Communications, Inc.
Gannett Company
G.D. Searle & Co.
General Mills, Inc.
General Motors Corporation
Goldome Bank of Buffalo
Hallmark Cards Incorporated
Herman Miller Inc.
Hewitt Associates
Hewlett-Packard
Holy Cross Shared Services, Inc.
Honeywell
Howard County, MD
Humana
Intermetrics
International Business Machines Corp.
International Minerals and Chemical Corp.
JM Family Enterprises, Inc.
Johnson Wax
Leo Burnett Co.
Lincoln National Life Insurance Company
Marion Laboratories
McKesson Corporation
Mennonite Mutual Aid Association
Meredith Corporation
Miles Laboratories, Inc.
Motorola, Inc.
National Adoption Center
National Bank of North Carolina
Omnistaff, Inc.
Owens-Corning Fiberglas
Pfizer, Inc.
Phelps Dodge
Pitney Bowes
Procter & Gamble Company
Rohm and Haas Company
S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc.
Signode Industries, Inc.
Smithkline Corporation
Smith Kline & French Laboratories
Stanley Works
Syntex Corporation
Temple, Barker & Sloane
Texas Instruments, Inc.
TIME, Inc.
The Travelers Insurance Group
USF&G
U.S. Surgical Corporation
Victor F. Weaver, Inc.
Volvo of North America
Walt Disney Co.
Wang Laboratories
Washington Post
Western Savings of Arizona
Xerox Corporation
Yale University

PART V. ADOPTION RESOURCES

60. Inventory of Adoption Agencies Which Support the National Committee For Adoption

The National Committee For Adoption (NCFA) is the Washington, D.C. headquarters organization of a non-profit, voluntary movement to strengthen adoption and related services. NCFA was founded in 1980, and has over 100 local adoption or maternity services agencies throughout the United States in its membership.

All of the following NCFA agencies are non-profit, volunteer organizations guided by volunteer board members and staffed predominantly by professional social workers. These agencies offer counseling services to all members of the adoption circle, including single, unmarried or troubled parents, couples with infertility problems or seeking to adopt a child, or persons who have been served by adoption agencies in the past. Most agencies offer a variety of maternity services, including residential care, to enable a woman to decide, in a professionally-sound but private environment, what option is best for herself and her unborn baby. These agencies find the best possible homes for children who need them, including healthy children born in the United States, children with special needs from every country, and healthy children from other countries who could benefit from a home in the United States.

NCFA agencies receive the majority of their support from fees for services, as well as support from private contributions and foundations. Each year approximately 650,000 persons benefit directly or indirectly by the services and programs offered by these agencies. The dues paid by these agencies to NCFA headquarters in Washington, D.C., supported the production of this ADOPTION FACTBOOK, and their contribution is deeply appreciated.

ALASKA - LDS Social Services Alaska Office (see Utah), Alaska Mutual Bank Bldg., 4020 De Barr St., #225A, Anchorage, AK 99508 (907)337-6696

ALABAMA - Lifeline Children's Services, 2908 Pump House Road, Birmingham, AL 35243 (205)967-0811

ARIZONA - Aid for Adoption of Special Kids, 1611 E. Camelback, Suite 8, Phoenix, AZ 85016 (602)262-2863
-LDS Social Services Mesa Office, 235 South El Dorado, Mesa, AZ 85202 (602)968-2995
-LDS Social Services Page Office, P.O. Box 3544, Page, AZ 86040 (602)645-2489
-LDS Social Services Snowflake Office, P.O. Box 856, 601 South Main Street, Snowflake, AZ 85937 (602)536-4117
-LDS Social Services Tucson Office, 3535 South Richey, Tucson, AZ 85713 (602)745-6459

ARKANSAS - Bethany Christian Services, Prospect Bldg., Suite 564, 1501 N. University, Little Rock, AR 72207-5242 (501)664-5729

CALIFORNIA - Bethany Christian Services, Unit #1, 9556 Flower, Bellflower, CA 90706-5708 (213)804-3448,
-Aid for Adoption of Special Kids, 2081 Business Center Drive, #188, Irvine, CA 92715 (714)752-8305
-Bethany Christian Services, 2937 Veneman, Suite 265C, Modesto, CA 95356-0638 (209)522-5121
-Aid for Adoption of Special Kids, 3530 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610 (415)451-1748
-Aid for Adoption of Special Kids, National Office, 450 Sansome, #210, San Francisco, CA 94111 (415)434-2275
-LDS Social Services Sacramento Office, 3000 Auburn Blvd., Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95821 (916)971-3555
-LDS Social Services Fremont Office, 37541 Blacow Road, Fremont, CA 94536 (415)790-1800
-LDS Social Services Fresno Office, 2686 South Maple, Fresno, CA 93725 (209)441-8022
-LDS Social Services San Diego Office, 5464 Grossmont Center Dr., Suite #330, La Mesa, CA 92042 (619)466-5558
-LDS Social Services Anaheim Office, 501 N. Brookhurst, #300, Anaheim, CA 92801 (714)520-0525
-LDS Social Services Colton Office, 791 North Pepper Avenue, Colton, CA 92324 (714)824-0480
-LDS Social Services Van Nuys Office, 7100 Hayvenhurst Ave., #102, Van Nuys, CA 91406 (818)781-5511
-LDS Social Services Ventura Office, 3585 Maple St., Suite 255, Ventura, CA 93004 (805)642-0338

COLORADO - Bethany Christian Services, 2140 S. Ivanhoe, Suite 106, Denver, CO 80222-5749 (303)758-4484
-LDS Social Services, 3263 Fraser St., Suite 3, Aurora, CO 80011 (303)371-1000

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Adoption Services Information Agency/ASIA,
7720 Alaska Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012 (202)726-7193
-The Barker Foundation, 4114 River Rd., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016 (202)363-7751

FLORIDA - Shepherd Care Ministries, Inc., 5935 Taft St., Suite B, Hollywood, FL 33021 (305)981-2060,
5200 Davisson Ave., Suite B, Orlando, FL 32810 (407)290-3286, 9280-3 College Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33199 (813)433-1929,
220 S. Dixie Highway #4, Lake Worth, FL 33460 (407)588-4990, P.O. Box 401, LaBelle, FL 33935 (407)675-2613
-Florida Baptist Children's Home, P.O. Box 8190, Lakeland, FL 33802 (813)687-8811,
8415 Buck Lake Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32301 (904)878-1458, 7748 Southwest 95th Terrace, Miami, FL 33156 (305)271-4121
LDS Social Services, 1020 North Orlando Ave., Suite F, Winter Park, FL 32789 (407)628-8899

GEORGIA - Bethany Christian Services, 682 Mulberry, Macon, GA 31201-2622 (912)742-6964
-Open Door Adoption Agency, P.O.B. 4, Thomasville, GA 31799-0004 (912)228-6339
-LDS Social Services, 4823 N. Royal Atlanta Dr., Tucker, GA 30084 (404)939-2121

HAWAII - LDS Social Services, 1500 S. Beretania St., #403, Honolulu, HI 96826 (808)945-3690

IDAHO - LDS Social Services, Idaho Falls Office, 1420 E. 17th St., Suite B, Idaho Falls, ID 83401 (208)529-5276
-Boise Office, 10740 Fairview, Suite 100, Boise, ID 83704 (208)376-0191
-Burley Office, 255 N. Overland Avenue, Burley, ID 83318 (208)678-8200
-Pocatello Office, 1070 Hiline Rd., Suite 200, Pocatello, ID 83201 (208)232-7780

ILLINOIS - *St. Mary's Services, 717 W. Kirchoff Rd., Arlington Heights, IL 60005 (312)870-8181
-The Cradle Society, 2049 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60204 (312)475-5800
-Bethany Christian Services, 9730 S. Western St., Suite 203, Evergreen Park, IL 60642-2814 (312)422-9626
-LDS Social Services, 1813 Mill Street, Suite F, Naperville, IL 60540 (312)369-0486

INDIANA - Bethany Christian Services, 9595 N. Whitley Dr., Suite 210, Indianapolis, IN 46240-1308 (317)848-9518
-Childplace, 2420 Highway 62, Jeffersonville, IN 47130 (812)282-8240
-Bethany Christian Services, 7895 Broadway, Suite J-1, Merrillville, IN 46410-5529 (219)769-0211
-LDS Social Services, 5151 West 84th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46268 (317)872-1745

IOWA - Bethany Christian Services, 322 Central Avenue N.W., P.O. Box 143, Orange City, IA 51041-1341 (712)737-4831
-Bethany Christian Services, Community Center, 712 Union Street, Room 303, Pella, IA 50219-1768 (515)628-4606

KANSAS - Gentle Shepherd Child Placement Services, Inc., P.O. Box 1172, Olathe, KS 66061 (913)764-3811

LOUISIANA - *Associated Catholic Charities, 1231 Prytania Street, New Orleans, LA 70112 (504)523-3755,
-*Children's Bureau of New Orleans, The Maison Blanche Building, 921 Canal St., Suite 840, New Orleans, LA 70130 (504)525-2366
-Volunteers of America, 3900 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 7200, Metairie, LA 70002-1737 (504)836-5225; 1-800-5359
-*Volunteers of America, 354 Jordan Street, Shreveport, LA 71101 (318)221-2669
-LDS Social Services, 2000 Old Spanish Trail, Pratt Center, Suite 115, Slidell, LA 70458 (504)649-2774

MAINE - St. Andre Home, Inc., 283 Elm Street, Biddeford, ME 04005 (207)282-3351

MARYLAND - Bethany Christian Services, 1641 Rt. 3 North, Suite 205, Crofton, MD 21114 (301)721-2835, (District of Columbia)858-0413, (Baltimore)793-0352
-Jewish Social Services, 6123 Montrose Rd., Rockville, MD 20852 (301)881-3700
-LDS Social Services, Amber Meadows Prof. Bldg., 198 Thomas Johnson Dr. #13, Frederick, MD 21701 (301)694-5896

MASSACHUSETTS - *Bethany Christian Services, 62 Foundry Street, Wakefield, MA 01880-3205 (617)246-1890
-Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Worcester, 15 Ripley Street, Worcester, MA 01610 (508)798-0191

MICHIGAN - Bethany Christian Services, 6995 West 48th, P.O. Box 173, Fremont, MI 49412-9506 (616)924-3390
-Bethany Christian Services, 901 Eastern Avenue, N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503-1295 (616)459-6273, 1-800-BETHANY (national)
-Bethany Christian Services, Dolly Madison Office Ctr., Suite 250, 32500 Concord Drive, Madison Hghts., MI 48071-1140 (313)588-9400
-Bethany Christian Services, 12048 James St., Holland, MI 49424-9661 (616)396-0623
-LDS Social Services, 37634 Enterprise Court, Farmington Hills, MI 48018 (313)553-0902

MINNESOTA - Bethany Christian Services, 421 South Main, Stillwater, MN 55082-5127 (612)439-9603

MISSISSIPPI - Bethany Christian Services, Woodland Hills Office Bldg., Suite 545, 3000 Old Canton Road, Jackson, MS 39216-4212 (601)366-4282

MISSOURI - Bethany Christian Services, 7750 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63117-1353 (314)644-3535
-LDS Social Services, Kansas City Office, 517 West Walnut, Independence, MO 64050 (816)461-5512
-LDS Social Services, St. Louis Office, 12843 Pennridge Drive, Bridgeton, MO 63044 (314)344-0048

MONTANA - LDS Social Services, 2001 Eleventh Avenue, Helena, MT 59601 (406)443-1660

NEBRASKA - Nebraska Children's Home Society, 3549 Fontenelle Blvd., Omaha, NE 68104 (402)451-0787, 648 North H, Fremont, NE 68025 (402)727-0767, 908 N. Howard Ave., Suite 107, Grand Island, NE 68803 (308)381-0568, 4600 Valley Rd., Suite 304, Lincoln, NE 68510 (402)483-7879, 403 S. 17th St., Norfolk, NE 68701 (402)379-3378, 1916 W. F, North Platte, NE, 69101 (308)534-3250, P.O. Box 146, Alliance, NE 69367 (308)762-1638

NEVADA - LDS Social Services Las Vegas Office, 513 South 9th St., Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702)385-1072
LDS Social Services Reno Office, 507 Casazza Dr., Suite C, Reno, NV 89502 (702)323-7376

NEW HAMPSHIRE - LDS Social Services, 131 Route 101A, Amherst Plaza, Suite 204, Amherst, NH 03031 (603)889-0148

NEW JERSEY - Bethany Christian Services, 475 High Mountain Road, North Haledon, NJ 07508-2603 (201)427-2566

NEW MEXICO - *Family and Children's Services, Inc., Chaparral Program, 1503 University Blvd., N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87102 (505)243-2551
-Christian Placement Services, West Star Route, Box 48, Portales, NM 88130 (505)356-4232
-LDS Social Services Albuquerque Office, 3811 Atrisco N.W., Albuquerque, NM 87120 (505)836-5947
-LDS Social Services Farmington Office, 925 Cannery Court, Farmington, NM 87401 (505)327-6123

NEW YORK - *Spence-Chapin Services, 6 East 94th Street, New York, NY 10128 (212)369-0300,
1-800-321-LOVE
-Community Maternity Services, 27 North Main Avenue, Albany, NY 12203 (518)482-8836
-Catholic Home Bureau, 1011 First Avenue, New York, NY 10022 (212)371-1000 ext. 2100, (Sister McCormack)
-LDS Social Services, 105 Main Street, Suite H, Fishkill, NY 12524 (914)896-8266

NORTH CAROLINA - Bethany Christian Services, 25 Reed Street, P.O. Box 15569,
Asheville, NC 28813-0569 (704)274-7146
-LDS Social Services, 5624 Executive Center Dr., Suite 109, Charlotte, NC 28212 (704)535-2436

OHIO - Bethany Christian Services, Walter L. Mitchell Bldg., Suite 340, 1655 W. Market Street, Akron, OH 44313-7004
(216)867-2362
-Gentle Care Adoption Services, 243 E. Livingston, Columbus, OH 43215 (614)469-0007
-LDS Social Services, 4431 Marketing Place, Groveport, OH 43125 (614)836-2466

OKLAHOMA - Deaconess Home, 5401 North Portland, Oklahoma City, OK 73112 (405)946-5581 ext. 3341,
(405)942-5001
-LDS Social Services, 2017 S. Elm Place, #107, Broken Arrow, OK 74012 (918)451-3090

OREGON - LDS Social Services Salem Office, 3000 Market Street, N.E., Suite 268, Salem, OR 97301 (503)581-7483
-LDS Social Services Portland Office, 10420 S.E. 82nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97266 (503)774-9757

PENNSYLVANIA - Bethany Christian Services, The Village Plaza, 224 Manor Avenue, P.O. Box 317, Millersville, PA
17551-0417 (717)872-0945
-Children's Home of Pittsburgh, 5618 Kentucky Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 (412)441-4884
-Family Adoption Center/Family Health Council of Western Pennsylvania, 1200 Allegheny Tower, 625 Stanwix Street,
Pittsburgh, PA 15222 (412)288-2130
-Bethany Christian Services, 717 Bethlehem Pike, #2D, Erdenheim, PA 19118 (215)233-4626
-Lutheran Home At Topton, Children's Services Dept., Topton, PA 19562 (215)682-1504

RHODE ISLAND - Catholic Social Services, 433 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907
(401)467-7200

SOUTH CAROLINA - Bethany Christian Services, 300 University Ridge Suite 114, Greenville, SC 29601-3645
(803)235-2273

SOUTH DAKOTA - LDS Social Services, 2525 W. Main Street, #310, Rapid City, SD 57702 (605)342-3500

TENNESSEE - Bethany Christian Services, 4719 Brainerd Rd., Suite D, Chattanooga, TN 37411-3830
(615)622-7360
-Bethany Christian Services, 3387 Poplar, Suite 101, Memphis, TN 38111 (904)454-1401

TEXAS - *Catholic Family Service, Inc., P.O. Box 15127, Amarillo, TX 79105-5127, (806)376-4571
-*The Edna Gladney Center, 2300 Hemphill Street, Forth Worth, TX 76110 (817)926-3304, 1-800-772-2740 (Texas only),
1-800-433-2922 (other states)
-The Edna Gladney Center, 2121 Sage Road, Suite 123, Houston, TX 77056 (713)877-1212
-*Homes of St. Mark, 1302 Marshall, Houston, TX 77006 (713)522-2800, 1-800-543-2229 (Texas only)
-*Smithlawn Home and Adoption Agency, Box 6451, Lubbock, TX 79413 (806)745-2574
-*Children's Service Bureau, 625 North Alamo, San Antonio, TX 78215 (512)223-6281
-LDS Social Services Dallas Office, 1100 West Jackson Road, Carrollton, TX 75006 (214)242-2182
-LDS Social Services Houston Office, 16333 Hafer Road, Houston, TX 77090 (713)537-0211

UTAH - LDS Social Services are organized to serve members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons). Services are provided by a network of 61 agencies in the U.S. For information about the LDS Social Services office nearest to you, call (801)531-3636 or write: LDS Social Services, 50 East North Temple, Seventh Floor,
Salt Lake City, UT 84150
-LDS Social Services, 1190 North 900 East, Provo, UT 84604 (801)378-7620
-LDS Social Services, 350 E. 300 North, Suite B, American Fork, UT 84003 (801)756-5217
-LDS Social Services, 563 West 500 South, Suite 240, Bountiful, UT 84010 (801)298-5700
-LDS Social Services, 95 West 100 South, #340, Logan, UT 84321 (801)752-5302
-LDS Social Services, 349 - 12th Street, Ogden, UT 84404 (801)621-6510
-LDS Social Services Richfield Office, 55 North 100 West, P.O. Box 817, Richfield, UT 84701 (801)896-6446
-LDS Social Services Cedar City Office, 110 West 535 South, Cedar City, UT 84720 (801)586-4479
-LDS Social Services Price Office, 85 East 400 North, Price, UT 84501 (801)637-2991
-LDS Social Services, 780 West 800 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84104 (801)537-7900
-LDS Social Services, 625 East 8400 South, Sandy, UT 84070 (801)566-2556

VIRGINIA - Bethany Christian Services, 246 Maple Ave., E., Suite 200, Vienna, VA 22180-4631 (703)255-4775
-LDS Social Services, P.O. Box 638, 8110 Virginia Pine Court, Chesterfield, VA 23832 (804)743-0727

WASHINGTON - Bethany Christian Services, 103 East Holly, Suite 316, Bellingham, WA 98225-4718
(206)733-6042
-New Hope of Washington, 2611 NE 125th, Suite 146, Seattle, WA 98125 (206)363-1800
-LDS Social Services Seattle Office, 220 South Third Place, Renton, WA 98055 (206)624-3393
-LDS Social Services Kennewick Office, 6500-B West Descheutes, Kennewick, WA 99336 (509)735-8406
-LDS Social Services Spokane Office, North 606 Pines Road, Spokane, WA 99216 (509)926-6581

WISCONSIN - Bethany Christian Services, W255 N477 Grandview Blvd., Suite 207, Waukesha, WI 53188-1606
(414)547-6557

*Charter Member Agencies

AUSTRALIA - LDS Social Services, 333 Clarendon St., Suite 2, South Melbourne, Victoria, 3205 Australia
011-61-3-690-4344
-LDS Social Services, 15 Parnell Street, 1st Floor, Suite 1, Strathfield, N.S.W. 2135, Australia 011-612-747-5211

CANADA - LDS Social Services Calgary Office, 7040 Farrell Rd., SE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2H 0T2
(403)255-0154
-LDS Social Services Lethbridge Office, Box SS 1-1-34, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, T1J 4B3 (403)328-8263
-LDS Social Services, 2 Dunbloor Rd., Suite 304, Islington, Ohtario, Canada M9A 2E4 (416)542-2470

ENGLAND - LDS Social Services, 399 Garretts Green Lane, Sheldon, Birmingham, B33 0UH, England
011-44-21-784-9266

NEW ZEALAND - LDS Social Services, P.O. Box 33-848, Takapuna, Auckland 9, New Zealand
011-64-9497-158

61. State Employed Adoption Specialists

Resource persons employed in the State social service systems:

ALABAMA - Dr. Jerry Milner, Alabama Dept. of Human Resources, 64 N. Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130 (205)261-3409

ALASKA - Barbara McPhearson, Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services, Pouch H-05, Juneau, AK 99811 (907)465-3023

ARIZONA - Carol Lussier, Adoption Coordinator, P.O. Box 6123, Phoenix, AZ 85005 (602)255-3981

ARKANSAS - Helen Beard, Permanency Planning Unit Manager, Division of Children and Family Services, Slot 808, P.O. Box 1437, Little Rock, AR 72203 (501)682-8462

CALIFORNIA - James W. Brown, Chief, Adoptions Branch, California Dept. of Social Services, 744 P Street, M/S 19-69, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916)445-3146

COLORADO - Barbara Kilmore or Charlotte Little, Colorado Dept. of Social Services, 1575 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203 (303)866-3209 or 5962

CONNECTICUT - Jean Watson, Adoption Services Coordinator, Connecticut Dept. of Children and Youth Services, White Hall, Bldg. 2, Undercliff Road, Meridien, CT 06450 (203)238-6640

DELAWARE - Carol King, 1st State Executive Plaza, 330 E. 30th St., 3rd Floor, Wilmington, DE 19802 (302)571-6419

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Evelyn C. Andrews, District of Columbia Dept. of Human Services, 500 1st Street, N.W./ Room 8040, Washington, D.C. 20001 (202)724-2093

FLORIDA - Gloria Walker or Carol Hutcheson, Florida Dept. of Health and Rehabilitative Services, 1317 Winewood Blvd. Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700 (904)488-8000

GEORGIA - Forest Burson, Georgia Dept. of Human Resources, State Adoption Unit, 878 Peachtree Street N.E., Room 501, Atlanta, GA 30309-3917 (404)894-3376

HAWAII - Beatrice Yuh, Hawaii Dept. of Human Services, Family and Children's Services, P.O. Box 339, Honolulu, HI 96809 (808)548-7502

IDAHO - Shirley Wheatley, State Adoptions Coordinator, Dept. of Health and Welfare, Division of Family and Children's Services, 450 West State St., Boise, ID 83720 (208)334-5700 or 5697

ILLINOIS - Gary Morgan, Illinois Dept. of Children and Family Services, 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 6-211, Chicago, IL 60601 (312)917-6864

INDIANA - Dr. Ruth Lambert, Indiana Dept. of Public Welfare, Child Welfare and Soc. Ser. Div., 141 South Meridian Street, 6th Floor, Indianapolis, IN 46225 (317)232-4448

IOWA - Margaret Corkery, Iowa Dept. of Human Services, Hoover State Office Building, 5th Floor, Des Moines, IA 50319 (515)281-5358

KANSAS - Barbara Stodgell, Kansas Dept. of Soc. & Rehab. Services, 300 S.W. Oakley, Topeka, KS 66606 (913)296-4661

KENTUCKY - Sue Howard, Dept. for Social Services, 275 East Main Street, 6th Floor West, Frankfort, KY 40621 (502)564-2136

LOUISIANA - Patsy Scott-Johnson, Adoption Program Manager, Louisiana Dept. of Health and Social Services, Division of Children, Youth and Family Services, Office of Community Services, P.O. Box 3318, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 (504)342-9925

MAINE - Leanore Taylor, Maine Dept. of Human Services, State House, 221 State Street, Augusta, ME 04333 (207)289-3271

MARYLAND - Fern Blake, Maryland Dept. of Human Resources, 311 West Saratoga St., Baltimore, MD 21201 (301)333-0235

MASSACHUSETTS - Shiela Frankel, Massachusetts Dept. of Social Services, 150 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114 (617)727-0900 (Ext. 231)

MICHIGAN - Richard Hoekstra, Michigan Dept. of Social Services, P.O. Box 30037, Lansing, MI 48909 (517)373-3513

MINNESOTA - Robert DeNardo, Children's Services, Minnesota Dept. of Human Services, 444 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-3831 (612)296-5288

MISSISSIPPI - Mary Ann Everett, Mississippi Dept. of Public Welfare, P.O. Box 352, Jackson, MS 39205 (601)354-0341, Ext 204

MISSOURI - Benita Weitzel, Missouri Division of Family Services, P.O. Box 88, Jefferson City, MO 65103 (314)751-2427

MONTANA - Betty Bay, Dept. of Family Services, P.O. Box 8005, Helena, MT 59604 (406)444-5900

NEBRASKA - Mary Dyer, Adoption Specialist, Nebraska Dept. of Social Services, 301 Centennial Mall, South, Lincoln, NE 68509 (402)471-3121

NEVADA - Rota Rosaschi, Social Services, Nevada State Welfare Division, 2527 North Carson St., Carson City, NV 89710 (702)885-3023

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Glenna Law or Cathy B. Atkins, New Hampshire Div. for Children and Youth Services, Adoption Unit, 6 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301 (603)668-2330

NEW JERSEY - Mary Lou Sweeney, New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Service, 1 South Montgomery Street, C.N. 717, Trenton, NJ 08625 (609)633-3991

NEW MEXICO - Pat Shannon, Adoption Unit, New Mexico Human Services Dept., P.O. Box 2348, PERA Building, Room 515 Santa Fe, NM 87504-2348 (505)827-4109

NEW YORK - Peter Winkler, New York State Dept. of Soc. Ser., 40 N. Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12243 (518)473-0855 (out of state) or 1-800-342-3715 (in New York)

NORTH CAROLINA - Robin Peacock, N.C. Division of Social Services, 325 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27611 (919)733-3801

NORTH DAKOTA - Virginia Peterson, Adoption Administrator, North Dakota Dept. of Human Services, State Capitol Building, Bismark, ND 58505 (701)224-3580

OHIO - Mr. Kenneth E. Kotch, Deputy Compact Administrator, Ohio Dept. of Human Services, 30 East Broad Street, 30th Floor, Columbus, OH 43266-0423 (614)466-8520

OKLAHOMA - Jane Connor, Oklahoma Dept. of Human Services, P.O. Box 25352, Oklahoma City, OK 73125 (405)521-2475

OREGON - Fred Stock, Oregon Dept. of Human Services, Children's Services Division, 198 Commercial Street, S.E., Salem, OR 97310 (503)378-4452

PENNSYLVANIA - Robert Gioffre, Pennsylvania Dept. of Public Welfare, Health and Welfare Bldg. Annex, Box 2675 Harrisburg, PA 17105 (717)787-7756

PUERTO RICO - Matilda Gonzalez, Puerto Rico Dept. of Social Services, P.O. Box 11398, Santurce, PR 00910 (809)723-2127

RHODE ISLAND - John Sinapi, Jr., Rhode Island Dept. of Children and Their Families, 610 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Building 5, Providence, RI 02908 (401)457-4631

SOUTH CAROLINA - Mary Jo Morrison, Deputy for Adoption, Office of Children, Family, and Adult Services, South Carolina Dept. of Social Services, P.O. Box 1520, Columbia, SC 29202 (803)734-5670

SOUTH DAKOTA - Patricia Stewart, South Dakota Dept. of Social Services, Child Protection Services, 700 Governors Drive Pierre, SD 57501 (605)773-3227

TENNESSEE - Joyce N. Harris, Adoption Program Manager, Tennessee Dept. of Human Services, 400 Deaderick St., Nashville, TN 37219 (615)741-5935

TEXAS - Susan Klickman, Texas Dept. of Human Services, P.O. Box 2960, Austin, TX 78769 (512)450-3302

UTAH - William Ward, Utah Dept. of Social Services, Division of Family Services, 120 North 200 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0500 (801)538-4084

VERMONT - Cynthia Walcott, Vermont Dept. of Soc. & Rehab. Services, 103 S. Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05676 (802)241-2131

VIRGINIA - Brenda Kerr, Virginia Dept. of Soc. Services, 8007 Discovery Drive, Richmond, VA 23229-8699 (804)662-9081

WASHINGTON - Patrick Weber, Washington Dept. of Social and Health Services, OB 41-C, Olympia, WA 98504 (206)753-0965

WEST VIRGINIA - Family and Children Services, Bureau of Social Services, Dept. of Human Services, 1900 Washington Street, East, Charleston, WV 25305 (304)348-7980

WISCONSIN - Christopher Marceil, Wisconsin Dept. of Health and Social Services, P.O. Box 7851, Madison, WI 53707 (608)266-0700

WYOMING - Patricia McDaniel, Program Consultant, Division of Public Assistance and Social Services, Wyoming Dept. of Social Services, Hathaway Building, Room 319, Cheyenne, WY 82002 (307)777-6789

62. Regional Program Director Offices for Children, Youth and Families

You may also contact the Regional Program Director for Children, Youth and Families in the Regional Office of Human Development Services which serves your state:

REGION I - (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont) JFK Federal Building, Room 2000, Boston, MA 02203, (617)233-6450

REGION II - (New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands) Federal Building, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 4149, Dennis J. Coughlin, Adm. for Children, Youth, and Families, New York, NY 10278, (212)264-2974

REGION III - (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and District of Columbia) Box 13716, Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19101, (215)596-0356 - Director, Office of State Programs.

REGION IV - (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee), 101 Marietta Tower, Suite 903, Atlanta, GA 30323 (404)221-2134 - Mrs. Bessie B. Barnett

REGION V - (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin) 300 South Wacker, 13th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606 (312)353-6503

REGION VI - (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas) Office of Human Development Services, 1200 Main Street, 10th Floor, Dallas, TX 75202 (214)767-6596

REGION VII - (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska) 601 E Street, Room 384, Kansas City, MO 64106 (816)374-3981

REGION VIII - (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming) Federal Office Building, 1961 Stout Street, Denver, CO 80294 (303)844-3106

REGION IX - (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam, Trust Territory of Pacific Islands, American Samoa) Roy Fleischer or Ray Myrick, Chief, DHHS/OHDS/ACYF/CB, 50 United Nations Plaza, Room 479, San Francisco, CA 94102-4912 (415)556-6153

REGION X - (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington) Office of Human Development Services, 2901 Third Avenue, Mail Stop 503, Seattle, WA 98121 Edward S. Singler, Regional Admin. (206)442-2430

63. National Organizations

Organizations which promote adoption of waiting children, act as national information clearinghouses, and provide publications and resource materials:

National Committee For Adoption
1930 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009-6207 (202)328-1200

Adoptive Families of America (formerly OURS)
3307 Highway 100 North, Suite 203, Minneapolis, MN 55422 (612)535-4829 (A national membership organization of adoptive and prospective adoptive parents and adoptive parent support groups offering information, education and support to adoptive families. Publishes the award-winning OURS magazine.)

AASK America
(Aid to Adoption of Special Kids), 450 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94111 (415)434-AASK

National Adoption Exchange
1218 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 (215)925-0200

Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs,
Public Information Specialist, Public Health Service, Dept. of Health and Human Services, 330 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201

64. Relevant National Health Organizations

List of organizations providing information, referral services, newsletters, and resource materials which may be useful for those adopting a special needs child.

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf
3417 Volta Place N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007 (202)337-5220

American Foundation for the Blind
15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011 (212)620-2000

Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities
Jean Petersen, National Executive Director, 4156 Library Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15234 (412)341-1515

Association for Retarded Citizens
2501 Avenue J, P.O. Box 6109, Arlington, TX 76003 (817)640-0204

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
6931 Arlington Rd., Second Floor, Bethesda, MD 20814 (301)951-4422 1-800-FIGHT-CF

Down's Syndrome Congress
1640 West Roosevelt Road, Room 156-E, Chicago, IL 60608

National Down's Syndrome Adoption Exchange
Janet Marchese, 56 Midchester Ave., White Plains, NY 10606 (914)428-1236

Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults
2023 West Ogden, Chicago, IL 60612 (312)243-8400

Epilepsy Foundation of America
4351 Garden City Drive, Landover, MD 20785 (301)459-3700

Muscular Dystrophy Association
810 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019 (212)586-0808

National Association for the Deaf
814 Thayer Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301)587-1788

National Center for Health Statistics
STIB, 3700 East-West Highway, Room 1-57, Hyattsville, MD 20782 (301)436-8500

National Society for Children and Adults with Autism
1234 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 1017, Washington, DC 20005 (202)783-0125

Spina Bifida Association of America
1700 Rockville Pike, Suite 540, Rockville, MD 20852

65. National and Regional Adoption Exchanges

These exchanges act as central registries which attempt to "bring together" waiting children and appropriate families

The CAP Book, Inc.
700 Exchange Street, Rochester, NY 14608 (716)232-5110, Peggy Soule, Director

AASK - America
450 Sansome St., Suite 210, San Francisco, CA 94111 (415)434-2275

DARE
(Delaware Valley Adoption Resource Exchange), Adoption Center of Delaware Valley, 1218 Chestnut Street, Suite 204,
Philadelphia, PA 19107 (215)925-0200, Carolyn Johnson, Executive Director
(Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey)

Exchange of Mid-America
Kansas Children's Service League, P.O. Box 517, Wichita, KS 67201, (316)942-4261, Marge Mintun, (Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska,
Missouri)

Maine-Vermont Exchange
Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Social Services, 221 State Street, Augusta, ME 04333 (207)289-5060,
Leonore R. Taylor, Director, (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire)

National Adoption Center
1218 Chestnut St., 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107 (215)925-0200

National Committee For Adoption
1930 17th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20009-6207 (202)328-1200

National Down's Syndrome Adoption Exchange
Janet Marchese, 56 Midchester Ave., White Plains, NY 10606 (914)428-1236

Northwest Adoption Exchange
Jill Jasper, Program Director, 909 Northeast 43rd Street, Suite 208, Seattle, WA 98105 (206)632-1480, (Alaska, Washington,
Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Nevada)

Rocky Mountain Adoption Exchange
Dixie Davis, Executive Director, 925 So. Niagara, Suite 100, Denver, CO 80224 (303)333-0845 (Colorado, Utah, New Mexico,
Wyoming, and South Dakota)

SEE US
(Southeastern Exchange of the United States), P.O. Box 6647, Columbia, SC 29260-6647, (803)782-0882, Nancy Godbold,
Director, (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee)

TRAC
(Three Rivers Adoption Council), 307 Fourth Avenue, Suite 710, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412)471-8722, Martha G. Ross, Director, (Pennsylvania, West Virginia)

66. State Contacts for Adoptive Parent Support Groups

Most of the following individuals serve as referral sources for the network of support groups and adoption services in their State. Those who work through the following organizations are so identified: NACAC (North American Council on Adoptable Children), COAC (Council on Adoptable Children), LAPA (Latin American Parents Association), and FACE (Families Adopting Children Everywhere). (Organizations that are affiliated with Adoptive Families of America are designated by /AFA. The AFA State contacts are accurate as of December, 1988.) Many of the numbers listed are home phone numbers, so please restrict calls to reasonable hours.

ALABAMA - Kathy Casler/NACAC, 220 Dexter Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35212 (205)879-7008
- Alabama Friends of Adoption/AF', Val Rocco, 940 Beech La., Birmingham, AL 35213 (205)879-6372

ALASKA - (See Washington)

ARIZONA - NACAC, 4704 South McAllister, Tempe, AZ 85282 (602)839-0756
- Advocates for Single Parenting, Sarah Kemmer, 1701 E. Linden, Tucson, AZ 85719 (602)327-6478
- Arizona Getting International Families Together (A.G.I.F.T.)/AFA, Terri Lindenmeier, 16053 N. 47th Dr., Glendale, AZ 85306 (602)938-1443

ARKANSAS - Jan Guthrie/NACAC, Route 3, Box 487, Conway, AR 72032 (501)329-5272
- North Central Arkansas Adoption Group, JD and Juanita Parker, Rt. 1, Box 268, Baldknob, AR 72010
- Child Advocacy Network, Carol Blow, Box 7239, Little Rock, AR
- Arkansas - Oklahoma Adoption Support Group, Charles and Ruth King, Box 386, Hartford, AR 72938
- Valley Adoption Support Group, Carol Amundson Lee, Rt. 1, Box 80, London, AR 72847
- Adoptive Parents and Children Together, Jim and Gerry Ramsfield, Rt. 1, Box 58, Winslow, AR 72959
- Adoptive Parents and Children Together, Jim and Leslie [illegible] t. 5, [illegible]x 232, Harrison, AR 72601
- Central Arkansas Adoptive Support Group, Derral Sutton, Rt. 1, Box 261, Bismark, AR 71929
- Linking International Families Together, Karen and Ray Seago, Rt. 1, Box 110-0, Jacksonville, AR 72076
- NEA-FACT, Bobby and Sue Morris, Rt. 2, Box 22F, Jonesboro, AR 72401
- Blended Families Support Groups, Ms. Jane Jeffries, c/o Parent Center, Independence Co. Courthouse, 192 East Main, Batesville, AR 72501
- AFACT, Inc., Roberta and Jimmy Adams, 1903 Green Acres Rd., Jacksonville, AR 72076

CALIFORNIA - Sheila Anderson/NACAC, 1181 Tennyson, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
- Adoptive Parent Support and Referral/AFA, Sharyn Harrison and Pam Dart, 12065 Persimmon Terrace, Auburn, CA 95603 (916)885-1944
- Inter Country Adoption Network (I.C.A.N.)/AFA, Barbara Weaver, 8506 Matilija Ave., Panorama City, CA 91402 (818)893-0264
- North Coast Adoptive Families/AFA, Julie Neumiller, 4146 Dry Creek Rd., Healdsburg, CA 95448 (707)433-1960
- OURS Through Adoption, Yasha Sousoeff, P.O. Box 85152-343, San Diego, CA 92138 (619)693-9130
- Solano County Adoption Support Group/AFA, Cheryl Richno, 212 Sunhaven Dr., Fairfield, CA 94533 (707)429-5447
- Black Linkage For Adoptive Children, Connie Lewis, 3895 South Orange Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90008 (213)296-3718
- Hispanic Adoptive Parents of Los Angeles, Carlos M. Sosa, 4206 Camino Real, Los Angeles, CA 90065 (213)482-2817
- Open Door Society of Los Angeles, Donna Salisbury or Marsha Spector 12235 Silva Place, Cerritos, CA 90701 (213)402-3667
- Adoption Avenues, Kathy Rich, 288 Onyx Ct., Redding, CA 96001, (916)246-7721
- Central Coast Adoption Support, Box 5165, Santa Maria, CA 43456
- Adoption Avenues/AFA, Lavada Williams, 1205 Shasta Way, Central Valley, CA 96019 (916)275-1318
- Bay Area Adoption Support/AFA, Peter Romwall, 1017 Fulton Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94089 (408)734-1697
- Building Families Thru Adoption/AFA, Peg Brown, 19150 Gorstrom Lane, Ft. Bragg, CA 95437 (707)964-3973
- FAIR/AFA, Polly Haight, P.O. Box 51436, Palo Alto, CA 94303 (415)857-9563

COLORADO - Vi Pierce/NACAC, 6660 South Race Circle West, Littleton, CO 80121 (303)795-2890
- Adoptive Families of Denver, Inc./AFA, Fabiola Esposito, 8351 Solana Dr., Thornton, CO 80229 (303)289-2787
- Adoptive Families of Northern Colorado, Fort Collins: Andrea Heyman, (303)686-2069 or Nasha Russell, (303)493-0572 or Susan Elbinger, (303)224-2924; Windsor: Joy Hinrichs, (303)686-5954; Greeley: Marla Kraft, (303)352-9483
- Adoptive Parents Support Group, (Sponsored by Rocky Mountain Adoption Exchange For Families with Adopted Black Children) (303)333-0845;
- Adoptive Parent Support Group of Colorado Springs, Jackie (303)577-4527; Anita (303)590-7126
- Colorado Adoption Service Support Group, (For Families with adopted children from India) Judy Klee (303)988-3060
- Colorado Parents For All Children: Denver Chapter, Katheryn Schneberk-King (303)443-4802 or Linda Donovan (303)794-4838; Colorado Springs Chapter, Beverly Kaley (303)594-9880; or Cheryl Berce (303)598-1517; Grand Junction Chapter, Linda Skinner (303)243-7193; or Cheryl Morelli (303)245-5697; or Judy Moss (303)243-9797; Montrose Chapter, Carol Watson (303)323-5143; or Andrea Haymen (303)686-2069; Glenwood Springs Chapter, Deb Pluger (303)945-5730; Aspen Chapter, Carol Friesen-Wescott (303)963-3913
- Denver Adoptive Mothers Club, Haroldyn Freeke, (303)935-3847
- Foothills Adoptive Mothers Club, Jeanne Montgomery, (303)989-2140
- Longmont Adoptive Families, Donna North, (303)776-1749

CONNECTICUT - Jack & Linda Cotter/NACAC, 73 Mather Street, Manchester, CT 06040 (203)649-8115
- Adoption Connection/AFA, Nancy Coughlin, 3 Hampden Circle, Simsbury, CT 06010 (203)658-0736
- Adoption Parents Exchange Support Group/AFA, Deborah Stroffolino, 6 Putnam Park Rd., Bethel, CT 06801 (203)743-9283
- International Adoptive Families of Hartford (IAF)/AFA, Joan Bothell, 168 Willington Hill Road, Willington, CT 06279 (203)429-6963
- Adoption Connection, P.O. Box 188, Farmington, CT 06034
- Family Works Inc., Gretchen Webster, (203)255-6342; Kathy Coppola (203)866-5789
- Black Adoptive Parents Support Group, Gordell Gulley, (203)777-5513 or (203)933-4667
- DCYS, Shirley DeFlaviis, Norwich, 1-800-338-3421, (203)886-2641; Barbara Burford, Manchester, 1-800-842-6348; Marion Small, Waterbury, (203)753-9541
- Bridgeport Coalition, Maryln Lewis, Hall Neighborhood House (203)334-3900
- Helping Other Parents Everywhere (H.O.P.E.), Richard and Janet LaVoie, (203)622-9063

- Conn. Parents of Indian Children, Linda Girard, 11 Backes Ct., Wallingford, CT 06492 (203)265-9531; Diane Rizzuco, 815 Westside Rd., Cheshire, CT 06410 (203)272-5084; Eileen Crutchlow, Walnut Tree Hill Road Huntington, CT (203)926-1229
- Open Door Society, Kathy Dunham (203)635-0486; Lynn Gabbard (203)248-9937; Judy Allen (203)621-2676
- Stars of David, Eden Ditman, (203)644-9759; Stars of David, P.O. Box 783, New Britain, CT 06050
- Christain Family Inc., Attn: Bob and Sandy Killion, 224 Todd Road, Wolcott, CT 06716 (203)879-9545
- Friends of the Adopted Child, P.O. Box 1269, Groton, CT 06340, Attn: Ken Turcotte, (203)434-9415
- CARA (Support Group), Chrystal Lebovitz, Child and Family Agency of Southeastern Conn. (203)443-2896

DELAWARE - Maureen Piper/NACAC, 8 Eberly Drive, Chapel Hill, Newark, DE 19711 (302)366-8286
- Delaware Coalition for Children, Nancy McKenna, 23 Arthur Drive, Hockessin, DE 19707 (302)239-7340
- Adoptive Families with Information and Support/AFA, Jean Manlove, P.O. Box 7268, Wilmington, DE 19803 Hotline (302)762-2462

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Nancy Smith/NACAC, 604 Aspen Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012 (202)829-9623
- Barker Foundation International Parents Group/AFA, Michelle Hester, 4114 River Rd., N.W., Washington, DC 20016 (202)363-7751
- Association of Single Adoptive Parents/AFA, Phyllis Rogers, 3313 Spring Lane, Falls Church, VA 22041 (703)998-8670

FLORIDA - The Lifeline For Children, P.O. Box 17184, Plantation, FL 33318
- Families Through Adoption/AFA, Joy Jones - Spil and Kathi Timmons, 2587 Halfmoon Walk, Naples, FL 33990 (813)434-6097
- Universial Aid For Children/AFA, Edward and Norma Robinson, P.O. Box 610246, North Miami, FL 33261-1246 (305)754-4886

GEORGIA - Elizabeth Rowe/NACAC, 1041 Oakdale Road, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30307 (404)378-5358
- Korean Adoptive Parents' Support Group, Midge Hansell Miller, 4668 Wildginger Run, Lithonia, GA 30038
- Georgia Adoptive Parents, Inc., (GAP), Ann rightwell, 1934 Glen Echo Drive, Decatur, GA 30032 (404)289-8523
- GAP of Chatham County, Nancy Jo Cooper, 1806 East Gwinnett St., Savannah, GA 31404, Work (912)651-2300 Home (912)234-8151
- Fulton County Single Adoptive Parents, Linda McHellon, 2166 Ivydale St., S.W., East Point, GA 30344 (404)763-3256
- Families For Waiting Children, Vernistine Murphy, 2435 Omaha Rd., S.W., Atlanta, GA (404)344-7142
- Kathryn Karp/NACAC, P.O. Box 7727, Atlanta, GA 30309 (404)894-3748
- Parents of Adopted Children Team, 1819 Peachtree Rd., N.E., Atlanta, GA 30309 (404)355-3233
- Koren Adoptive Parents Support Group (KAPS)/AFA, Midge Hansell Miller, 4668 Wildginger Run, Lithonia, GA 30038 (404)961-6098
- Parents to Parents of Georgia, Inc., 1644 Tullie Circle, N.E., Suite 123, Atlanta, GA 30329

HAWAII - Adoption 850 W. Hind Dr., Suite 114, Honolulu, HI 96821 (808)377-5787

IDAHO -
- North Idaho Adoptive Families, Susan A. Smith, P.O. Box 729, Post Falls, ID 83854 (208)773-5629
- Lewis and Clark Adoptive Families, Lori Coons, 3628 16th Street, Lewiston, ID 83501 (208)743-0391
- Adoptive Families of Idaho - Boise Area, Janet Benson, 203 E. Colorado, Nampa, ID 83651 H(208)467-2294, (208)466-5222
- Families Through Adoption, Linda eterson, Box 237, McCammon, ID 83250 (208)254-3141
- Parents and Children Together, 7474 S. Cloverdale, Boise, ID 83709
- Adoptive Parent Support Group For Older Children, C/O ADOPTIONS, 4355 Emerald, Boise, ID 83706
- Families Through Adoption, 987 Taney Lane, Pocatello, ID 83201
- Forever Families, 899 Saratoga, Boise, ID 83706

ILLINOIS
- Fox Valley Adoption Support Group/AFA, Lee Meyer, 1114 S. 13th St., St. Charles, IL 60174 (312)377-2701
- Kishwaukee/AFA, Dave and Mary Fehlman, 387 W. Lincol, Hinckley, IL 60520 (815)286-7136
- OURS E. Central Illinois, Ruediger Laufhutte, R.R. 3, Box 217, (Northline Rd. West), Tuscola, IL 61953 (217)253-2926
- Little Egypt Adoptive Parents Association/AFA, Bill Gayer, RR#2, Box 339, West Frankfort, IL 62896 (618)932-3915
- The Childrens Advocate/AFA, Joanne White, 644 Webster St., Ottawa, IL 61350 (815)433-2235
- Heart of Illinois/AFA, Gary Childs, 3912 Kathy Lane, Peoria, IL 61615 (309)688-6595
- Chicago Area Families for Adoption/AFA, Inc., Russetta Rauch and LaVon Funck, 1137 North Brainard St., Naperville, IL 60540 (312)357-2052
- OURS of Central IL, Ben Rhodes, 307 Victor, Normal, IL 61761 (309)454-4355
- OURS With Love of Albion, IL, Tonya Johnson, 811 Market St., Mt. Carmel, IL 62863 (618)262-4395
- CHILD INT'L/AFA, Maureen Kay, 3914 Michael Lane, Glenview, IL 60025 (312)272-2511
- All-Adopt/AFA, Marietta Bear, 727 Ramona Place, Godfrey, IL 62035 (618)466-8926
- Illiana Adoptive Families/AFA, Camille Grishaber, Candace DuBois, 6329 Streamwood Lane, Matteson, IL 60443 (312)720-2428
- Gifts Through Adoption/AFA, LeRoy Thompson, 6 Grand Oaks, Pekin, IL 61554 (309)387-6009
- OURS Through Adoption, Ann Vermeire and Donna Duvall, 2929 27th Ave., A., Moline, IL 61265 (309)762-8061

INDIANA - Bonnie Henson/NACAC, 0516 East 400th Street, La Porte, IN 46350 (219)393-3259
- OURS of Indianapolis, Kent and Karen Adams, 4965 Limberlost Trace, Carmel, IN 46032 (317)844-4158
- OURS by Adoption, Duane & Rachel Yoder, 3908 Central Dr., Ft. Wayne, IN 46806 (219)456-1925
- Families Adopting Children Together, Connie & Robert Cramer, 29746 CR 118, Elkhart, IN 46517
- Families Adopting Children Together/AFA, Randy and Lisa Moyer, 68070 County Road 3, Nappanee, IN 46550 (219)862-2247
- Black Adoptive Parents Together, Florence Corbin, 3131 E. 38th St., Indianapolis, IN 46218 (317)545-5281
- Adoptive Parents Together, Inc./AFA, Jeanine Jones, 5320 Far Hill Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46226 (317)638-0965

IOWA - Beverly Chartier/NACAC, R.R. #1, Prole, IA 50229 (515)462-3428
- International Adoptive Parents/AFA, Trudy Dudley, 6328 Eastview Avenue, S.W., Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 (319)396-6443
- Pro Adoption Coalition of Iowa, P.O. Box 1011, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406
- Iowa City International Adoptive Families/AFA, Chris Forcucci, RR 2, Box 181, West Branch, IA 52358 (319)643-7478
- Iowa Parents of East Indian Children (PIC)/AFA, Betty L. Dittrich, 1805 11th Street, Eldora, IA 50627 (515)858-5072
- Iowans for International Adoption/AFA, Donna Duvall, RR Box 29, Spragueville, IA 52074 (319)672-3273
- Central Iowa Adoptive Families/AFA, Karen Tucker, 501 Skycrest Dr., Ames, IA 50010 (515)232-6387

KANSAS - Pat Washington/NACAC, c/o Mayfield, 10866 Bradshaw, Overland Park, KS 66210 (816)763-5846
- Mid-Kansas International Families/AFA, JoAnne and Joel LaRocca, 1508 North Stony Point, Wichita, KS 67212 (316)721-3594
- Ours Through Adoption, Stacy M. Barnes, c/o Humana Hospital/Education Dept., 10500 Quivira, Overland Park, KS 66215 (913)384-0459
- Holt Families of Mid-America/AFA, Laura Hewitt, 6708 Granada Rd., Prairie Village, KS 66208 (913)722-5697

KENTUCKY - Blended Families (Special Needs), P.O. Box 18462, Louisville, KY 40218-0462 (502)459-0955
- Parents of Chosen Children, P.O. Box 825, Flatwoods, KY 41139
- Kentuckiana Families for Adoption, Sue Gagel, 7604 Petty Jay Court, Louisville, KY 40220 (502)491-8444
- Families and Adoptive Children Together (FACT)/AFA, Janice Fairhurst, 1250 High Street, Paducah, KY 42001 (502)444-9849
- Parents and Adoptive Children of Kentucky (PACK)/AFA, Carolyn Brown, 47 Comer Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431 (502)825-2158

LOUISIANA -
- Adoptive Couples Together, Ashton and Royann Avegno, 9500 Abel Lane, New Orleans, LA 70123 (504)737-2008
- Orleans Region Parent Support Group, 2026 St. Charles Avenue, P.O. Drawer 57149, New Orleans 70157 (504)568-7455
- Baton Rouge Adoptive Parents Support Group, Josette Lester, 274 Dentation, Baton Rouge, LA 70816
- Shreveport Region Adoptive Parents Support Group, 1525 Fairfield Street, Room 1071 Shreveport, LA 71130 (318)226-7375
- Monroe Region Adoptive Parents Support Group, State Office Building, Room 450, 122 St. John's Street, Monore, LA 71201
- Citizens for the Adoption of Black Children, 3044 Lexington Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 (504)927-0870
- A-OK (Adopt Older Kids), Ebrar Reaux, 818 Briarwood, New Iberia, LA 70560 (318)365-4789
- Korean-American Resource Exchange (KARE)/AFA, Gerri Lattier, 8814 Bruin Drive, Metairie, LA 70003 (504)455-9445

MAINE - Dawn Degenhardt/NACAC, 101 North Street, Houlton, ME 04730 (207)532-9800
- Adoptive Families of Maine (AFM), Sue Curran, 11 Chandler St., Calias, ME 04619 (207)454-3675
- AFM, Kitsie Claxton, 445 Lake Street, Auburn, ME 04210 (207)784-3804
- AFM, Sharon Pierce, 21 Glenwood Avenue, Augusta, ME 04330 (207)622-0062
- AFM, Nancy Kephart, Hancock, ME 04640 (207)422-9555
- AFM, Judy Collier, 281 Parkview, Bangor, ME 04401 (207)947-3178
- AFM, Edie Keller, 19 Roosevelt Avenue, Waterville, ME 04901 (207)872-6161
- AFM, Fran Brotka, 4 Brook Street, Houlton, ME 04730 (207)532-3948

MARYLAND - Sherry Simas, 6902 Nashville Road, Lanham, MD 20706 (301)552-1888
- Adopt Minority Children, 5966 Camelback Lane, Columbia, MD 21045 Terri Kendrix, (301)596-3462
- Committee for Single Adoptive Parents, P.O. Box 15084, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
- FACE, Inc./AFA, Clyde Tolly and Carol Mowbray, P.O. Box 28058, Baltimore, MD 21239 (301)252-0869
- Families Like Ours, (Korean Adoption specialty), 14402 Butternut Ct., Rockville, MD 20853 (301)871-8990
- LAPA, National Capital Region, Paul Roosa, P.O. Box 4403, Silver Spring, MD 20904 (301)384-7467
- Tri-County Advocates, Fred and Nancy Palmer, 1621 Liberty St., Lexington Park, MD 20653 (301)863-5729
- International Families by Adoption, P.O. Box 1, Woodsboro, MD 21798 Kathy Jenkins (301)271-4163
- Southern FACE, 6902 Nashville Road, Lanham, MD 20706 (301)350-0200
- North Anne Arundel County FACE, c/o J.E. Szczerba, 573 Nolview Court, Glen Burnie, MD 21061

MASSACHUSETTS - Mary Lou Robinson/NACAC and ODS Mass., 96 Rick Drive, Florence, MA 01060 (413)584-8459 and 586-9869
- Latin American Adoptive Families (LAAF)/AFA, Marilyn Rowland, 40 Upland Road, Duxbury, MA 02332 (617)934-6756
- Massachusetts Adoptive Families Association (FAMILY), Suzanne Richardson, 72 Crescent Rd., Longmeadow, MA 01106

MICHIGAN -
- (F.A.C.T.) Families Adopting Children Together, Randy and Lisa Moyer, 1012 Strong Ave., Elkhart, IN
- Parents for International Adoption/, Beth Miller, 3010 E. River Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 (517)772-1946
- A.D.O.P.T./AFA, James and Maxine Berden, 6939 Shields Ct., Saginaw, MI 48603 (517)781-2089
- Adoption Resource Group/AFA, Judy Drewyor, 1101 Agate, Houghton, MI 49931 (906)482-1983
- Adoptive Families of Soutwestern Michigan/AFA, Don and Donna Grabemeyer, 51558 Indian Lake Road, Dowagiac, MI 49047 (617)424-3531
- Families for Children/AFA, Beverly Currie, 8475 Pontiac Lake Road, Pontiac, MI 48054 (313)666-2638
- Families for International Children/AFA, Greg Youtzy, 1169 48th St., S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49508 (616)530-9417
- FIAA of Ann Arbor/AFA, Linda Piersimoni, 42706 Somerset Dr., Canton, MI 48187 (313)981-2761
- Greater Jackson Families For Adoption/AFA, Patricia Brown, 6243 Mountie Way, Jackson, MI 49201 (517)782-9023
- Greater Lansing Ours by Adoption, Kathy D. Richards, 523 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48906-4723 (517)374-6641
- International Families Through Adoption/AFA, Daniel and Deborah Bowen, 16200 Highland, Spring Lake, MI 49456 (616)846-8606
- Ours of Flint, Don and Judy Lichnovsky, G-6052 W. Pierson Road, Flushing, MI 48433 (313)230-1586
- Rainbow Families of the Upper Peninsula/AFA, Tina Miller, 4833 16.5 Lane, Escanaba, MI 49829 (906)789-0689
- Straits Area International Families/AFA, Geoff Guillaume, 656 Atkins Road, Petoskey, MI 49770 (616)347-6595
- Building Families Through Adoption/AFA, Alice Grogan, 4874 Meyer St., Cadillac, MI 49601 (616)775-6202
- Families of Latin Kids (FOLK)/AFA, Kathi Nelson, 1060 Evelyn, Ypsilanti, MI 48198 (313)482-1969
- Michigan Assoc. of Single Adoptive Parents/AFA, Linda Anderson, 4953 Maple, Dearborn, MI 48126 (313)584-3943
- The Adoption Option, Don Marengere, P.O. Box 7052, Huntington Woods, MI 48070-7052, (313)583-8940

MINNESOTA - Judith Anderson/CCPC, 9125 W. Bush Lake Road, Minneapolis, MN 55438 (612)941-7047
- Adoptive Families Today, Kay Wrucke, 282 Amber Lake Drive, Fairmont, MN 56031 (507)235-5194
- Adoption Today, Debbie Miller, 2318 Telemark Lane, N.W., Rochester, MN 55901
- Adoption Option Committee, Patricia Maxeiner, Pres., P.O. Box 24132, Edina, MN 55424 (612)944-0866
- Families Supporting Adoption/AFA, Jan and Curtis Nepsund, 9987 Pilgrim Way, Maple Grove, MN 55369 (612)425-2437
- Heart and Seoul/AFA, Roxanne W. Johnson, 10 Woodview Drive, Mankato, MN 56001 (507)345-1850
- International Families of St. Paul/AFA, Barb Wells-Howe, 1669 Niles Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55116 (612)690-3078
- Mid-Central MN Ours Through Adoption, Debra Thompson, 520 Sixth Avenue, S.E., Aitkin, MN 56431 (218)927-2677
- Minn-Kota Families Through Adoption/AFA, Clarine Thureen, 719 First Street, Moorhead, MN 56560 (218)233-6655
- North Suburban Ours Group, Margaret Newmaster, 2723 Crown Hill Ct., White Bear Lake, MN 55110 (612)429-0357
- Northland Families Through Adoption/AFA, Mary Pierce, 4302 Robinson, Duluth, MN 55804 (218)525-7122
- Northwest Minnesota Families Through Adoption/AFA, Al and Pauline Gustafson, R#4, Box 32, Thief River Falls, MN 56701 (218)681-5507
- Parents of (Asian) Indian Children (PIC)/AFA, Linda M. Rasmussen, 409 97th Ave., N.W., Coon Rapids, MN 55433 (612)784-8929
- Parents of Latin American Children (PLAC)/AFA, Kathy Ziegler, 1861 Stinson Blvd., New Brighton, MN 55112 (612)633-3583
- Rochester Area Adoptive Families Together (RAAFT)/AFA, Gary Marx, 321 16th Ave., S.W., Rochester, MN 55902 (507)281-0278
- South Minneapolis Adoptive Families/AFA, Richard and Janet Cleveland, 7380 Langview Circle, Chanhassen, MN 55317 (612)934-9302
- Stars of David, Sandy Winer, 602 Drillane Road, Hopkins, MN 55343
- Willmar Area Ours by Adoption, Conni Chapin and Bonnie Nelson, 900 Walnut Pl., Willmar, MN 56201 (612)235-4383
- Monticello Area Adoptive Families Support Group/AFA, Howard Hudson, 16741 242nd Ave., Big Lake, MN 55309 (612)263-3486

MISSISSIPPI - COAC of Mississippi, P.O. Box 1184, Jackson, MS 39205
- Linda West/NACAC, 430 Forest Avenue, Jackson, MS 39202 (601)982-9149

MISSOURI - Pat Krippner/Open Door Society of MO, 6127 Waterman, St. Louis, MO 63112 (314)725-2955,
- Sharon E. Fako/NACAC, 7272 Cornell Avenue, University City, MO 63130 (314)727-9491
- Adoptive Parents of the Ozarks, Laura Valenti or Glenda Weaver, Bennett Spring, P.O. Box 83 Lebanon, MO 65536 (417)532-4782 & 532-2150
- Foster Care and Adoption Association, JoAnn O'Neill, Route 1, Rocheport, MO 65279 (314)689-4551
- Adoption Council of Greater St. Louis, P.O. Box 78062, St. Louis, MO 63178
- Families Through Adoption/AFA, Ron and Pat Neudecker, 7300 General Sherman, St. Louis, MO 63123 (314)843-8028

MONTANA - Mel & Lois Ann Jones/NACAC, P.O. Box 485, Anaconda, MT 59711, (406)563-5077
- Families For Adoptable Children, Tom and Gail Cramer, P.O. Box 29, Melrose, MT 59725 (406)835-3231
- Citizens Concerned About Adoption, Pam Moritz, 1 South Montana, Conrad, MT 59425 (406)278-5445
- FACET, Bonnie Scarbro, 930 Ave. B, N.W., Great Falls, MT 59404 (406)452-2675
- Together Let's Care, Michael and Bernice Danzer, 4642 Head Drive, Helena, MT 59601 (406)443-5778
- Havre Adoptive Parent Group, Donna Hilliard, 425 1st Avenue, Havre, MT 59501 (406)265-9009
- Bozeman Adoptive Parent Group, Ed Neuman, 202 So. Black Ave., Bozeman, MT 59715 (406)587-1894
- Yellowstone International Families/AFA, Arlon Peda, 3126 Turnberry Circle, Billings, MT 59100 (406)256-5592

NEBRASKA - Intercultural Families/AFA, Kate Moe, 7323 N. 80th St., Omaha, NE 68122 (402)571-6234
- Kearney Area Adoption Assn/AFA, Diane Dreyer, 3704 Avenue D, Kearney, NE 68847 (308)234-3296

NEVADA - Patch Donnellan/NACAC, 4951 Plata del Sol, Las Vegas, NV 89121 (702)458-5971

NEW JERSEY - Latin American Parents Association (LAPA)/AFA, New Jersey State Chapter, Lorraine Coppola, P.O. Box 2013, Brick, NJ 08723 (201)572-2509
- Loved Ones/AFA, Carol Pasternak, 722 Pine Drive, Brick, NJ 08723 (201)477-5248
- New Jersey Friends Through Adoption/AFA, Cynthia V. N. Peck, 161 Twin Brooks Trail, Chester, NJ 07930 (201)879-2007
- Rainbow Families/AFA, Kathleen Becker and Sandy Lopatynski, 670 Oakley Place, Oradell, NJ 07649 (201)265-1493
- Adoptive Mothers Support Group of Essex County/AFA, Lili Hartman, 40 Burnett Terrace, Maplewood, NJ 07040 (201)763-9220

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Open Door Society, 11 Wielder's Grove Rd., Kingston, NH 03848 (603)382-7060

NEW MEXICO - Sandra Luck/NACAC, 4374 Ridgeway Street, Los Alamos, NM 87544 (505)662-5424
- Parents of InterCountry Adoption/AFA, Donna Meers, 606 Clark Circle, SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105 (505)873-4202
- Santa Fe Rainbow Families/AFA, Nichoe Lichen, Rt. 9, #58A, Santa Fe, NM 87505 (505)983-2073

NEW YORK - Shirley Damboise/NACAC, 22 Yerk Avenue, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779 (516)585-1247
- Adoptive Families Association of Tompkins County, Diane Hillmann, P.O. Box 81, Jacksonville, NY 14854 (607)387-9207
- Adoptive Families of Chemung County, Lucinda Wakeman, RFD 2, Rt. 414, Beaver Dams, NY 14812 (607)936-4706
- Adoptive Families of Schulyer County, Susan Murphy, RD 1, Oak Hill Rd., Alpine, NY 14805 (607)594-3403
- Adoptive Parents of Clinton County, Susan Shaw, 76 Beekman St., Plattsburgh, NY 12901 (518)561-0338
- Adoptive Parents Committee - Long Island/AFA, Judy and Ben Mankita, 2973 Shore Rd., Bellmore, NY 11710 (516)826-5167
- Adoptive Parents Committee, Inc./AFA, 210 Fifth Ave., New York City, NY 10010 (212)683-9221
- Adoptive Parents Committee, Inc., Long Island Chapter/AFA, P.O. Box 71, Bellmore, NY 11710
- APC-Westchester/Rockland, Allan Speigelman, 1 Georgia Ave., Bronxville, NY 10708 (914)337-5611
- Allegany County Adoption Support Group, Grace and Ronald Washburn, 4346 East Sciota St., Scio, NY 14880 (716)593-1840
- American Oriental Club, Lorraine and Emerson Tanner, 516 Fremont St., Fulton, NY 13069 (315)593-7049
- Black Adoptive Parents Assoc., A. Peter Bailey, P.O. Box 104, Lincolnton Station, New York, NY 10037, (212)926-5987
- Broome County Adoptive Families, Peggy Nelson, 1308 Campus Drive, Binghamton, NY 13903 (607)722-5565
- Buffalo Minority Adoptive Parents Group, Christine and James Garmon-Williams, 81 East Depew Ave., Buffalo, NY 14214 (716)832-8421
- Catholic Adoptive Parents Association, Mary Ellen Havard, 2671 Amboy Rd., Staten Island, NY 10305 (718)979-8465

- Cattaraugus County Adoptive Families, Delores Chapel, RD 1, Box 55, Salamanca, NY 14779 (716)945-1417
- Central New York Council of Adoptive Families, Marge and Dave Hoyt, 168 Chaffee Ave., Syracuse, NY 13207 (315)469-1657
- Chenango County Adoptive Families, Ilene Hamilton, P.O. Box 741, Ingraham Rd., Greene, NY 13778
- Committed Parents For Black Adoption, Isaac Bembry, 520 East 39th St., Brooklyn, NY 11203 (718)469-3273
- Council on Adoptable Children - Rockland, Marian DeGennaro, 86 Kings Highway, New City, NY 10956 (914)634-8922
- Council of Adoptive Parents, Paultanski, 130 Hidden Creek Lane, Hamlin, NY 14464 (716)964-2913
- Families for the Children/Adirondack Region, Nancy Foss, 3 Lee Drive, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 (518)587-9959
- Families for the Future, Sheila Beam, 6 Williams Rd., Troy, NY 12180 (518)283-1939
- Families Interested In Adoption/Niagara Frontier, Dave and Sandy Powers, 65 Candyland, Hamburg, NY 14075, (716)648-6312
- Families Through Adoption/AFA, Cheryl Anderson, 301 Middle Road, Oneida, NY 13421 (215)363-4634
- Foster and Adoptive Parents Association of St. Chris-Ottilie, Francis Hamm, 1166 Nugent Ave., Bayshore, NY 11706 (516)242-4734
- Friends of Children Everywhere, Clara McGuire, 25 Earlie Ave., Lynnbrook, NY 11561 (516)887-2416
- Franklin/Essex Adoption Support Group, Jan Monagan, P.O. Box 374, Saranac Lake, NY 12983 (518)891-4558
- International Families - Orange/Ulster, Judy Dolan, Rt. 208, Box 91, Walkill, NY 12589 (914)895-2155
- Jefferson County Foster and Adoptive Parents Association, Barbara Clark, RD 2, Box 1012, Adams, NY 13605 (315)465-6471
- Latin America Parents Assocation/AFA, George Maggiore, P.O. Box 72, Seaford, NY 11783 (718)236-8689
- Love The Children of Long Island, Rhonda Gold, 5 Colony Ct., Greenlawn, NY 11740 (516)261-1423
- Montgomery County Foster and Adoptive Parents Association, Dolores Knutsen, RD 1, Box 301, Canajoharie, NY 13317 (518)673-5452
- New Life For Black Children, Thomasena Newton, P.O. Box 11164, Rochester, NY 14611 (716)436-6075
- New York Council on Adoptable Children, Ernesto Loperena, 666 Broadway, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10012 (212)475-0222
- New York State Foster and Adoptive Parents Association, Dora Diggs, 471 East 26th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11226 (718)287-8152
- Open Door Society of Long Island, Conrad Gangone, 156 Graffy Pond Road So., Smithtown, NY 11787 (516)864-2298
- Orange County Adoptive Parents, John Marshall, 21 Forsythe Place. Newburgh, NY 12550 (914)565-2431
- Oswego Council of Adoptive Families, Ronn and Paula Smith, 106 East 8th Street, Oswego, NY 13126 (315)343-3012
- Otsego County Adoptive Families, Brigit Sullivan, Box 26, Morris, NY 13808
- PACT/Columbia County, Kathy Stumph, P.O. Box 243, Ghent, NY 12075 (518)392-2618
- Parents and Children Together, Martin Gershowitz, 9 Arnold Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (914)473-4123
- Rockland County AFA, Elaine and Steve Horowitz, 33 Halley Drive, Pomona, NY 10970 (914)354-3888
- Schenectady Co. Adoptive Families, Paul Starson, 2917 Wellington Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12306 (518)374-7227
- Single Parents for Adoption, Maggie Schultz, 1013-91st Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14304 (716)283-8827
- Single People for the Adoption of Children Everywhere, Philip Lalonda, 41 Sparkill Avenue, Albany, NY 12209 (518)465-6763
- Southern Tier Adoptive Families, Pansy Foster, RD 1 - Tuttle Hill Road, Candor, NY 13743 (607)659-7556
- Steuben County Adoptive Families, Matt and Andrea Reisen, RD 2, Aoca, NY 14809 (607)566-2701
- Welcome House Adoptive Parents Group - Westchester County, Janet McDonald, 2908 Birch Street, Yorktown, NY 10598 (914)245-1053
- Columbia-Greene Korean American Families/AFA, Kerry Ann Sager, RD #2, North Hillsdale, NY 12529 (518)672-4085
- Friends of Adoption, The Family Connection/AFA, Russell L. Baker, 39 Woodworth Avenue, Jamestown, NY 14701 (716)484-9001
- Korean American Families, Inc./AFA, Barbara Nichols Randall, P.O. Box 13903, Albany, NY 12212
- Ours Through Adoption, Tom and Marie Manikowski, 9 Kelly Brook Ct., West Seneco, NY 14224 (716)674-8346

NORTH CAROLINA - Jan Chadwick/NACAC, Route 2, Box 56, Apex, NC 27502 (919)362-7006
- Southern Piedmont OURS, Lauren S. Decker, 7231 Bradley Court, Charlotte, NC 28212 (704)563-9646
- Triad Adoptive Parent Support Group/AFA, Liz Grimes, 133 Penny Road, High Point, NC 27260 (919)886-2455
- Triadopt/AFA, Anne Lacey and Kathy Dykes, P.O. Box 51192, Shannon Plaza, Durham, NC 27717 (919)382-0117

OHIO - Beth Frank, NACAC/Ohio, 518 Carroll Ave., Sandusky, OH 44870
- Adoptive Family Support Group, Barbara Funk, 9142 Forestknolls Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45212 (513)745-9520
- Adoptive Parents Support Organization (APSO), Jeff and Lynn Stacy, 2638 Ridgecliff, Cincinnati, OH 45212 (513)631-2883
- Foreign Exchange Families Through Intl Adoption/AFA, Pamela Blaz, 6880 Taylor Rd., Clinton, OH 44216 (216)825-0603
- Rainbow Families of Toledo/AFA, Debra Graf, 6146 Meadowvale Dr., Toledo, OH 43613 (419)475-3842
- Western Reserve Adoptive Parents/AFA, Candace Catheline, 368 Willard Ave., N.E., Warren, OH 44483 (216)372-1686
- Families United for Adoption/AFA, Colleen Alexander Roberts, P.O. Box 82, Swanton, OH 43558 (419)825-1308
- OURS Of Greater Cincinnati, Sherrey Jacob, 2101 St. James Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45206 (513)961-5937
- Project Orphans Abroad/AFA, Beth Scurka, P.O. Box 91247, Cleveland, OH 44101-3247 (216)526-3618

OKLAHOMA - Dee Williams/NACAC, 2609 Northwest 38th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73112 (405)942-0810
- Families Adopting Children in the Tulsa Area (FACT)/OURS, SuDawn Peters, 47 North Victors, Tulsa, OK 74110 (918)584-0114

OREGON - Harriet Gahr/NACAC, Route 3, Box 194, McMinnville, OR 97128 (503)472-6960
- Northwest Adoptive Families Association, C/O Denise Kendellen, P.O. Box 25355, Portland, OR 97225 (503)243-1356
- NAFA, Corrine Spiegel, P.O. Box 25355, Portland, OR 97225-0355 (503)243-1356
- Adoptive Family Assn of Eastern Oregon/AFA, Marjorie Grace, 1915 SW 43rd St., Pendelton, OR 97801 (503)276-1180
- Northwest Adoptive Families Assn Inc./AFA, Denise M. Kendellen, 3221 S.W. 30th Street, Gresham, OR 97080 (503)666-9240
- Southern Oregon Adoptive Families/AFA, Maryjo Regula, P.O. Box 332, Medford, OR 97501 (503)779-8494

PENNSYLVANIA (EAST) - Marcia Siegel/NACAC, 20 Lansdowne Court, Lansdowne, PA 19050 (215)259-3934
PENNSYLVANIA (WEST) - Pam Grabe/NACAC, 233 West Fulton Street, Butler, PA 16001 (412)283-1971 (H) (412)282-1965 (O)
- Mrs. Roberta Kissinger, RD #1, Red Top Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111 (717)566-0439
- Mrs. Inez Tomlinson, PACO of Lancaster County, 60 North Hazel Street, Manheim, PA 17545 (717)665-4561
- Mr. and Mrs. Henry Will, 132 Pearl Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 (717)392-2038
- Mrs. Rosemary Bailey, PACO of North Central Pennsylvania, 1029 Rural Avenue, Williamsport, PA 17701

- Reading Adoptive Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bewley, 234 Wunder Street, Reading, PA 19602
- Joyce Cummings, President, Bradford County Adoptive Parents, RD #3, Box 223, Columbia Cross Roads, PA 16914 (717)596-3370
- Ms. Sandra Ahner, Box 139, Ashfield, PA 18212 (215)377-5628
- Friends of Children of Vietnam/Open Door Society of Penn.(FCVN-ODS-PA), c/o Pat Sexton, 1835 Troxell Street, Allentown, PA 18103 (215)865-1882
- Mrs. Susan Elbert, WHAPG - NE Pennsylvania, 92 Naungola Road, RD #4, Mountain Top, PA 18707
- Mrs. Harold Denny, 1021 Lindberg Avenue, Stroudsburg, PA 18360 (717)424-1462
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kasebier, 64 Fox Gap Avenue, Bangor, PA 18013
- Vic and Nancy Reilly, RD #2, Ridgeview Drive, Doylestown, PA 18901
- Welcome House Adoptive Parents Group, P.O. Box 265, Doylestown, PA 18901 (215)345-0430
- Lois Huston, COAC of Chester Co. Inc., 255 Lancaster Ave., Malvern, PA 19355 (215)644-1713
- The Adoptive Parents Group of Delaware County, c/o Mrs. Nancy Urban, 5129 Palmers Mill Rd., Clifton Heights, PA 19018 (215)622-3890
- Ms. Marcia Siegel, Parents and Adopted Children Together, 20 Lansdowne Court, Lansdowne, PA 19050 (215)259-3934
- Brenda Rowntree, Audobon Adoption Referral Service, 715 Pondview Drive, Audobon, PA 19403 (215)631-1057
- Mr. and Mrs. Will Liegel, Together for Adoptive Children (TAC), 226 Susquehanna Avenue, Lansdale, PA 19446 (215)368-8913
- COAC of Southwestern Pennsylvania, c/o Sherry Anderson, 224 South Aiken Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 (412)361-4419
- Families for Black Children, c/o Ms. Ann Tucker, 1653 Laketon Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15221 (412)371-1328
- Peg McElhose, Secretary, PACO - West, 3837 Sardis Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15239
- Tri-State Area POA, c/o Mr. David Jones, 8571 Lake Pleasant Road, Erie, PA 16509 (814)866-6280
- Mr. Ron Alexander, Erie County Foster Parent, RD #5, Waterford, PA 16441 (814)796-4707
- Violet Brown, PACO Mercer County, RD #7, Box 7092, Mercer, PA 16137 (412)662-3058, (412)342-5596
- Ms. Sallie Bradley, Pennsylvania State Foster Parents Association, Chairperson for Adoption, RD #1, 847 Harrison City Road, Trafford, PA 15085 (412)373-0744
- Armstrong & Indiana Counties COAC, c/o Mr. and Mrs. Walt Slomski, RD #2, Box 13-A, Marion Center, PA 15759
- Martha Ross, The Bank Tower, 307 Fourth Avenue, Suite 710, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 (412)471-8722
- Parent Adoptive Group of Northwestern Pa, Donna Smith, Box 263, Kane Run Road RD 1, Oil City, PA 16301
- Adoptive Parents Group of Delaware County/AFA, Nancy Urban, 5129 Palmers Mill Rd., Clifton Hts., PA 19018 (215)622-3890
- Foreign Adoption Network (FAN)/AFA, Susan L. Kegerise, 286 Levan Street, Reading, PA 19606 (215)779-0727
- Parent's & Adopted Children's Organization, Mercer County/AFA, Mrs. Amy Phillips, 105 Wasser Road, Greenville, PA 16125 (412)588-2167
- Parents of Adopted Int'l Children of Chester County (PAIC)/AFA, Barbara Gauger, 5 Sheffield Lane, Pottstown, PA 19464 (215)326-3124
- Adoption Forum/AFA, Abby Ruder, 6808 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19128 (215)487-1311
- Keystone Adoptive Families/AFA, Irene Forney, 222 Winding Knoll Rd., Altoona, PA 16601 (814)946-3348
- LSS Adoptive Support Network/AFA, Phylis Dillon, 3114 Pastureview Dr., Gibsonia, PA 15044 (412)443-3644
- Love The Children of Western Pennsylvania/AFA, Geoffrey R. Hurd, 334 Tampa Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15228 (412)563-4931
- Single Adoptive Parents of Delaware Valley/AFA, Carole Nebhut, 275 Glen Riddle Rd. C-1, Glen Riddle, PA 19037 (215)358-3894

RHODE ISLAND - Elaine Cassinelli/NACAC, P.O. Box 26, Narragansett, RI 02882 (401)789-6243
- G.I.F.T. of R.I., Inc./AFA, Susan Round, 9 Shippee School House Rd., Foster, RI 02825 (401)647-2021

SOUTH CAROLINA - Joyce Thompson/NACAC, 1453 Hammond, North Augusta, SC 29841 (803)279-4184
- South Carolina COAC, C/O South Carolina Seedlings, Rt. 13, Box 298 Easley, SC 29640
- District 1, SC Council on Adoptable Children/AFA, Ellen Millard, P.O. Box 5761, Greenville, SC 29606 (803)242-1913
- S. C. COAC DISTRICTS: District 1 - Anderson, Pickens, Oconee, Greenville, Spartanburg and Cherokee, Bob and Peggy Ewing, 115 Conifer Road, Inman, SC 29349 (803)578-2240; District 2 - Laurens, Abbeville, Aiken, Greenwood, McCormick, Edgefield, Barnwell, and Allendale, Joe and Joyce Thompson, 1453 Hammond Pond Road, North Augusta, SC 29841 (803)279-4184; District 3 - York, Union, Chester, Lancaster and Newberry, (For information please contact membership chairman); District 3A - Fairfield, Lexington and Richland, Jeff and Jennifer Mayo, 312 Rockingham Road, Columbia, SC 29223, (803)736-3822; Frank and Brenda Wallace, 1332 Chevis Street, Columbia, SC 29205, (803)787-3559; District 4 - Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon, Darlington, Horry, Florence, Marion, Williamsburg and Georgetown, (For information please contact membership chairman); District 5 - Berkeley, Dorchester, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper, Beaufort and Charleston, Amy Stevens, P.O. Box 90191, Hanahan, SC 29410, (803)572-4681; District 6 - Bamberg, Orangeburg, Calhoun, Clarendon, Lee, Sumter and Kershaw, Stephen and Pat Mayfield, 20 Hilltop Street, Sumter, SC 29150, (803)775-8539

SOUTH DAKOTA - Families Through Adoption/AFA, Elaine Hummel, P.O. Box 851, Sioux Falls, SD 57101 (605)334-1595

TENNESSEE - Linda Russell/NACAC, Memphis, COAC, P.O. Box 18951, Memphis, TN 38118 (901)895-6740
- Knoxville COAC, P.O. Box 1787, Memphis, TN 37901
- PAPOOSE (Pre and Post Adoptive Parents Offering Ongoing Support), Donna Spillman, P.O. Box 210426, Nashville, TN 37221
- Chosen Children/AFA, Gail Cooke, 436 Golden Oaks Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37343 (615)875-8830
- OURS of Middle Tennessee, Leo & Anita Bechard, Box 55, Kidd Road, Nolensville, TN 37135 (615)776-5082
- Mid-South Families Through Adoption/AFA, Libby Bilderbeck, 6157 Live Oak Cove, Memphis, TN 38115 (901)794-4532
- Pappoos/AFA, Susan Dragotto, 109 Amy Ct., Franklin, TN 37064 (615)790-8903

TEXAS - Clara Flores, President, COAC of Texas, Inc., Rt. 2, Box 177-F, Edinburg, TX 78539 (312)383-2680
- Chuck Taylor/COAC, 1805 Parkside, Austin, TX 78745 (512)443-5524
- Glen Rutherford/COAC, P.O. Box 2822, Abilene, TX
- Sharon McBride/COAC (Coastal Bend Branch), 4317 Woodland Creek, Corpus Christi, TX 78410 (512)241-9634
- Lynn Morgan/COAC (North Texas Branch), Box 894, Archer City, TX 76531 (817)574-4041

- Ruth Barron/COAC (Permian Basin Branch), 2209 Boyd, Midland, TX 79701 (915)684-4655
- Donald Weber/COAC (Lower Rio Grande Valley Branch), 1301 Keralum, Mission, TX 78572 (512)585-4955
- Council on Adoptable Children of Ft. Worth, Inc./AFA, Marye Lou Mauldin, 2102 Carmel Ct., Arlington, TX 76012 (817)265-3496
- East Texas Council on Adoptable Children of Texas (E.T.COAC)/AFA, Chris L. Smith, 601 Harvard, Tyler, TX 75703 (214)534-1221
- North Texas Families for Adoption/AFA, George Bartulevicz, P.O. Box 610203, Dallas, TX 75261 (817)860-3791
- Council on Adoptable Children of Dallas/AFA, Bobbie T. Kerr, P.O. Box 141199, Dept. 366, Dallas, TX 75214 (214)823-5047

UTAH - HOPE of Utah, Inc., P.O. Box 1146, Provo, UT 84601
- Adoptive Support Group of Utah, Inc., 2835 So. Main, Salt Lake City, UT 84115 - Darrell Bingham, (801)487-8000 ext. 365
- Families Involved in Adoption (FIA)/AFA, Elaine Platt, P.O. Box 746, Centerville, UT 84014 (801)292-1793

VERMONT - Bonnie Oakman/NACAC, Woodstock Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701 (802)775-2653
- Vermont Families Through Adoption/AFA, Judy Lemay, 16 Aspen Dr., Essex Junction, VT 05452 (802)878-1753

VIRGINIA - Harriet Thomas, People for the Adoption of Children, Inc. 7908 Chowning Circle, Richmond, VA 23229 (804)747-6633
- Mrs. Roy Seward, 7649 Cherokee Road, Richmond, VA 23225
- Ms. Laurel McClurken, 120 Dorset Court, Charlottesville, VA 22901
- Ms. Sandra Daniels, FAITH, P.O. Box 7302, Roanoke, VA 24019
- Prince William COAC, c/o Mrs. Teresa March, 7815 Old Centreville Road, Manassas, VA 22111
- Mrs. Kay Roscoe, Secretary-Tres., Rappahannock Adoptive Parents, Rt. 3, Box 703, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
- Shenandoah Valley Adoptive Parents, c/o Linda Lemay, 548 Massanutten Heights, Woodstock, VA 22664
- Isle of Wight, Foster and Adoptive Organization, Ms. Aileen G. Edwards, P.O. Box 173, Smithfield, VA 23430
- COAC, 7008 Hadlow Drive, Springfield, VA 22152 (703)620-2180 (Serves Metropolitan D.C. including Md. and Va. suburbs)
- Adoptive Parents of Fairfax County, 8833 Burbank Road, Annandale, VA 22003 (703)978-1577
- Families Thru Adoption (OURS), Deidre L. Dudley, 360 Brittain Lane, Hampton, VA 23669 (804)851-9569
- Association of Single Adoptive Parents, Diane T. Sweeney, 6036 Hunting Creek Drive, Richmond, VA 23237

WASHINGTON - Lillian Thogersen/NACAC, 22198 61st Street, Bothell, WA 98011 (206)481-8034
- Jacqueline Erholm, NACAC/WA, 104 E. Maple St., Bellingham, WA 98225 (206)676-KIDS
- KIN, P.O. Box 204, Bothell, WA 98011 (206)743-3049
- Goldendale Adoptive Parent Group/AFA, Alice Dehart, 735 Bickleton Hwy., Goldendale, WA 98620 (509)773-5737
- KIN Adoptive Family Group/AFA, Delene Ritchie, 2925 Ruggs Lake Rd., Everett, WA 98208 (206)337-4549
- Adoptive Support Group of Kitsap County/AFA, Leanne Biggs, 11869 Olympic Terrace Ave., N.E., Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 (206)842-7122

WEST VIRGINIA - Sally Preston/NACAC, 1032 Valley Road, Charleston, WV 25302 (304)345-1958
- Parkersburg Adoptive Parents Association (Wood & Wirt Counties), c/o Debbie Hill, P.O. Box 108, Parkersburg, WV 26102
- Appalachian Families For Adoption/AFA, Molly Jordan, P.O. Box 2775, Charleston, WV 25330 (304)756-9146

WISCONSIN - Colleen Ellingson/NACAC, P.O. Box 10176, Milwaukee, WI 53210-0990 (414)475-1246
- Adoptive Families of Western Wisconsin, Anne Leonard, 519 Birch Street, River Falls, WI 54440 (715)425-0121
- Tom and Sue Kalhanek, Love Through Adoption, 4640 11th Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 (715)421-4414
- Adoption Information and Direction, P.O. Box 8162, Eau Claire, WI 54701-8162
- Adoption Information and Direction, 1140 Cherry Street, Green Bay, WI 54301
- Adoption Information and Direction, P.O. Box 1522, LaCrosse, WI 54601
- Adoption Information and Direction, P.O. Box 7371, Madson, WI 53704-7371
- Adoption Information and Direction, P.O. Box 23764, Milwaukee, WI 53224
- Adoption Information and Direction, P.O. Box 2043, Oshkosh, WI 54903
- Adoption Information and Direction, 2117 Clark Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481
- Adoption Insights-WCTC, c/o Barbara Bache-Wiig, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI 53072
- Adoption Parent Group of Southern Wisconsin, c/o Marilyn Holshuh, 1408 Vilas Avenue, Madison, WI 53711
- Adoptions Support Group, Attn: Peggy Schultz, c/o Children Service Society, 1212 South 70th Street, West Allis, WI 53214
- Adoptive Parent Association of Greater Milwaukee, c/o Michele Collins, 2760 Almesbury, WI 53005
- Adoptive Parents of Superior, c/o Ron Gustafson, 201 East 7th Street, Superior, WI 54880
- Brown County Adoptive Parents, c/o Connie Thirion, 1251 Doblon Street, Green Bay, WI 54302
- Central Wisconsin Adoption Support Group, c/o Karen Topel, 134 Ash Street, Montello, WI 53949
- Clark Co. Support Group, Route 3, Box 79A, Neillsville, WI
- Coalition for Children in Families, P.O. Box 10176, Milwaukee, WI 53210-0990
- Families By Adoption, Inc./AFA, c/o Mary Westerhaus, 231 North 22nd, LaCrosse, WI 54601
- Families By Adoption of South Central Wisconsin/AFA, Sharon Koenig, P.O. Box 2544, Madison, WI 53701-2544 (608)271-6815
- Fox Lake Adoptive Parents, c/o Diane Davis, R.R. 1, Box 296, Berlin, WI 54923
- Fox Valley Adoptive Support Group, c/o Joan Moericke, 2606 North Lisa Street, Appleton, WI 54914
- Friends of Adoption, c/o Rod and Brenda Schloneger, Route 1, Box 67, Shell Lake, WI 54871
- Great Expectations, c/o Wausau Hospital, 333 Pine Ridge Blvd., Wausau, WI 54401
- H.E.A.R.T. (Hope For Everyone Adopted Related Task Force), c/o Ms. Margaret Grundeen, 4630 Springwood Drive Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
- HOPE Network, P.O. Box 531, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
- Inter-Racial Families Network, c/o Family Enhancement Program, 605 Spruce Street, Madison, WI 53705
- International Families, c/o Janice Pezoldt, 820 Illinois Street, Racine, WI 53405
- Love Through Adoption/AFA, c/o Tom and Sue Kulhanek, 4640 11th Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 (715)421-4414
- NAMASTE/Children from India, c/o Nancy Reinbold, 546 Black Earth Court, Wales, WI 53183
- Open Door Society-Milwaukee, c/o Jackie Omdahl, 3253 North Hackett, Milwaukee, WI 53211

- Open Door Society - Western Wisconsin, c/o Tony and Anne Millkamp, Rt. 1, Box 92, Chippewa Falls, WI 53729
- OURS of Greater Milwaukee, c/o Cindi Bohmann, 10607 West Lancaster Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53225 (414)527-0936
- OURS Through Adoption, Susan Blazek, W28611 Hawthorne Road, Hartland, WI 53029
- OURS Through Adoption of N.E. Wisconsin, Sue Sitta, 4479 Shawano Ave., Green Bay, WI 54303 (414)865-7059
- P.A.S.T. (Post Adoption Support Through Time), c/o Pam Cira, 3375 North Dousman, Milwaukee, WI 53212
- Rock County Adoptive Parent Group, c/o Marian McFall, 845 Nakoma Court, Beloit, WI 53511
- S.N.A.P. (Special Needs Adoptive Parents), c/o Dave and Cara Leitner, Rt. 1, Box 230C, Scandinavia, WI 54977
- Up Connection, c/o Pam Hamm, 725 American Avenue, Waukesha, WI 53188
- Wisconsin Association of Single Adoptive Parents (WASAP), c/o Mary H. Cissoko, 2111 Barton Avenue #3, West Bend, WI 53095
- Wisconsin Single Parents of Adopted Children, c/o Anne Handschke, 403 Vilas Avenue, Nekoosa, WI 54457
- Wisconsin Single Parents of Adopted Children, c/o Diane Karrow, 127 St. Louis Drive, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
- Adoptive Families of Western Wisconsin, Inc./AFA, Anne Leonard, 519 Birch St., River Falls, WI 54022 (715)425-0121

WYOMING - Irene Tate, Box 788, 603 W. A. Street, Basin, WY 82410

67. State Adoption Exchanges and Photolisting Books (Waiting Children and Families)

List of exchanges operated at the State level, many of which print photolisting books picturing children waiting for adoptive homes:

Alabama Adoption Resource Exchange
Division of Adoptions, 64 North Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130 (205)261-3409

Alaska Adoption Exchange
Pouch H-05, Juneau, AK 99811 (907)465-3170

Arizona Adoption Exchange Book
Kay Buckler, Chairperson, Arizona Families for Children, P.O. Box 17951, Tucson, AZ 85731 (602)327-3324

Arizona State Adoption Registry
Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, P.O. Box 6123, Phoenix, AZ 85005 (602)255-3981

Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services
P.O. Box 1437, Little Rock, AR 72203 (501)682-8462

Colorado Adoption Resource Registry (CARR)
Barbara Killmore, State Department of Social Services, Division of Child Welfare Services, 1575 Sherman Street, 2nd Floor, Denver, CO 80203-1714 (303)866-3209

Connecticut Adoption Resource Exchange
Jean Watson, Adoption Service, White Hall, Bldg. 2, Undercliff Rd., Meriden, CT 06450 (203)238-6640

Florida's Waiting Children
Carol Hutcheson, Children, Youth, and Families Program Office, 1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32301 (904)488-8000

Central Adoption Exchange of Hawaii
Beatrice Yuh, P.O. Box 339, Honolulu, HI 96809 (808)548-7502

Adoption Information Center of Illinois
Marilyn Panichi, ACSW, 201 North Wells, Suite 1342, Chicago, IL 60606 (800)572-2390 (toll free for Illinois residents), (312)346-1516 (out of state)

Idaho State Adoption Exchange
Shirley Wheatley, State Adoptions Coordinator, Dept. of Health and Welfare, Div. of Family and Children's Services, 450 West State Street, Boise, ID 83720 (208)334-5700

Indiana Adoption Resource Exchange
141 South Meridian Street, 6th Floor, Indianapolis, IN 46225 (317)232-5613

Iowa Adoption Exchange
Margaret Corkery, Iowa Department of Social Services, Hoover State Office Building, 5th Floor, Des Moines, IA 50319 (515)281-5358

Louisiana Adoption Resource Exchange
Ms. Patsy Scott-Johnson, Mr. Joel M. McLain, P.O. Box 3318, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 (504)342-4041

Maine-Vermont Exchange
Department of Human Services, 221 State Street, Augusta, ME 04333 (207)289-5060

Maryland Adoption Resource Exchange
Lillian B. Lansberry, Coordinator, 311 West Saratoga St., Baltimore, MD 21201 (301)333-0236

Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange
867 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116 (617)536-0362

Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange
P.O. Box 30037, Department of Social Services, Lansing, MI 48909 (513)373-3513

Minnesota State Adoption Exchange
Social Services Division, Bureau of Social Services, 444 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-3831 (612)296-3843

Mississippi Adoption Resource Exchange
Mrs. Patti Jones, Social Services Department, P.O. Box 352, Jackson, MS 39205 (601)354-0341

Adoption Exchange of Missouri
P.O. Box 88, Jefferson City, MO 65103 (314)751-4832

Nebraska Adoption Exchange
Mary Dyer, Division of Human Services, Department of Social Services, P.O. Box 95026, Lincoln, NE 68509
(402)471-3121

Nevada Adoption Exchange
Welfare Division, Department of Human Resources, Rota Rosaschi, 2527 North Carson St. Capitol Complex,
Carson City, NV 89710 (702)885-3023

New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services
Adoption Resource Exchange, 1 South Montgomery Street C.N. 717, Trenton, NJ 08625 (609)984-8199

New Mexico Adoption Exchange
New Mexico Human Services Department, Social Services Division, P.O. Box 2348, Sante Fe, NM 87504 (505)827-4113

New York State Adoption Service
C/O Peter Winkler, 40 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12243 (518)473-0855 (out of State), (800)342-3715 (in State)

North Carolina Adoption Resource Exchange
C/O Janice Williams, 325 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27611 (919)733-3801

Adoption Listing Service of Ohio
Jan May/Susan Felger, 3737 Lander Road, Cleveland, OH 44124 (216)932-1937

Ohio Adoption Resource Exchange
C/O Lois Codwell, Social Program Specialist, Bureau of Children's Placement Services, Division of Family and Children's
Services, 30 East Broad Street, 30th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215 (614)466-8510 (Photo Listing is: Adoption Listing
Service of Ohio, 3737 Lander Road, Cleveland, OH 44124 (216)932-1937

Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange
Jewell A. McCliment, Lanco Lodge, 2nd Floor, Director, P.O. Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675 (717)257-7015 or
1-800-227-0225

Adoption Center of Delaware Valley of the National Adoption Center
1218 Chestnut Street, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107 (215)925-0200

Ocean State Adoption Resource Exchange
Lisa Finaro, 500 Prospect St., Pawtucket, RI 02860, (401)724-1910

South Carolina Seedlings (Photo Listing Book)
Route 13, Box 298, Easley, SC 29640 (803)269-7713

SNAP (Special Needs Adoption Program) Book
Dept. of Soc. Services, 710 West High St., Lexington, KY 40508 (606)252-1728

Tennessee Adoption Resource Exchange
Rose Harris, Tennessee Department of Human Services, 400 Deaderick St., Nashville, TN 37219 (615)741-3313

Texas Adoption Resource Exchange
Sandra Dush or Joy Pargin, P.O. Box 2960--Mail Code 538-W, Austin, TX 78769 (512)450-3362 or 3357, Ext. 2855 and 2860

Adoption Resource Exchange of Virginia (AREVA)
Martha Waters, 8007 Discovery Drive, Richmond, VA 23229-8699 (804)662-9149

Washington Adoption Resource Exchange (WARE)
Penny R. Oliver, Department of Social and Health Services, Mail Stop OB 41-C, Olympia, WA 98504 (206)753-2178

West Virginia Adoption Exchange
Loretta J. Baker, P.O. Box 2942, Charleston, WV 25330 (304)346-1062

Wisconsin Adoption Resource Exchange
Colleen Ellingson, Coalition For Children in Families, Inc., P.O. Box 10176, Milwaukee, WI 53210 (414)475-1246

Wyoming Adoption Exchange and Listing Services
Division of Public Assistance and Social Services, Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, WY 82002 (303)777-6075

68. Infertility Problems

These organizations provide counseling to infertile couples, and help them understand alternatives such as adoption. RESOLVE has chapters in various parts of the U.S. The American Fertility Society has member physicians in many locations.

RESOLVE, Inc.
5 Water St., Arlington, MA (617)643-2424

American Fertility Society
2140 Eleventh Ave., South, Suite 200, Birmingham, AL 35205-2800, (205)933-8494

69. Single Parents

This is an information and networking service for single adults who wish to adopt.

Single Parents Adopting Children Everywhere (SPACE)
Betty Birch, 6 Sunshine Ave., Natick, MA 01760

70. Interracial and Intercultural Support Groups

The following organizations give support to interracial and intercultural families by encouraging communication, organizing support groups, sponsoring research and educational programs, and/or publishing newsletters:

Biracial Family Network
Irene Carr, P.O. Box 489, Chicago, IL 60653-0489 (312)224-5715

INTERace
Carmen Becker, President, P.O. Box 7143, Flushing, NY 11352 (718)457-8099

Interracial Family Circle
P.O. Box 53290, Washington, D.C. 20009 (301)772-7718

Interracial Family Alliance
Beth Radcliffe, P.O. Box 16248, Houston, TX 77222 (713)481-8432

Multi-Racial Families of Colorado
Joel Gage, P.O. Box 20524, Denver, CO 80220-0524 (303)690-9032

Parents of Interracial Children (PIC)
Penny Parker, MSW, Child Saving Institute, 115 South 46th Street, Omaha, NE 68124 (402)553-6000

Rainbow Circle
c/o First Baptist Church, 17 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

National Coalition to End Racism in America's Child Care System
Carol Coccia, 22075 Koths Road, Taylor, MI 48180 (313)295-0257

A Place For Us Ministry
P.O. Box 357, Gardena, CA 90247-7857, Attn: Ruth and Steve White, (213)779-1717

B.R.A.N.C.H.
P.O. Box 50051, Lighthouse Point, FL 33074, Attn: Becky Kay (305)781-6798

Biracial Family Resource Center
147-20 46th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355, Attn: Barbara Duggan (718)886-3220

Biracial Group
953 SE Street, Amherst, MA 02002, Attn: P. Phillips, (413)256-0037

Duluth-Superior
12 East 4th St., Duluth, MN 55805, Attn: Willie Curry (218)722-1383

Honoring Our New Ethnic Youth
454 Willamette St., No. 213, Eugene, OR 97401 (503)342-3908

I-Pride
1060 Tennessee St., San Francisco, CA 94107, Attn: Carlos Fernandez (415)695-0330

IMAGE
3824 Adams Ave., San Diego, CA 92116, (619)584-1184

Interracial Family Alliance (Augusta)
P.O. Box 9117, Augusta, GA 30906, Attn: Brenda and Nathaniel Brown, (404)793-8547

Interracial Family Alliance (Atlanta)
P.O. Box 20290, Atlanta, GA 30325, Attn: John Brown (404)696-8113

Interracial Family Alliance (Philadelphia)
194 Northampton Dr., Willingboro, NJ 08046, Attn: Caryn Byrd (609)835-2471

Interracial Club of Buffalo (Amherst Branch)
P.O. Box 146, Buffalo, NY 14226, Attn: Mary C. Murchison-Edwords (716)875-6958

Interracial Families, Inc.
5437 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206, Attn: Charles and Martha Stewart

Interracial Connection
P.O. Box 7055, Norfolk, VA 23504, Attn: Connie Smith (804)622-9260

Interracial Family Unity Network
P.O. Box 6754, Jefferson City, MO 65102, Attn: Diana Page (314)634-2961

Interracial Family Network
P.O. Box 40466, Portland, OR 97240, (503)249-8218

Minnesota Women's Fund
500 Foshay Tower, Minneapolis, MN 55402, Attn: Clareen Menzies (612)337-5010

Multi-Racial Americans of Southern California
1228 Venice Blvd., Suite 452, Los Angeles, CA 90066, (213)656-7133

Multi-Racial Families of Ohio
3951 Magnola Place, Westerville, OH 43081, Attn: K. Madison (614)890-6916

National Association of Multiethnic Americans
C/O I-Pride, 1060 Tennessee St., San Francisco, CA 94107, Attn: Carlos Fernandez (415)695-0330

Peninsulia Interracial Families
P.O. Box 6691, Newport News, VA 23606, Attn: Esther Berkley; Valerie Tutson (Founder) 886-0535

71. Agencies and Programs for Black Adoptions

In addition to National Committee For Adoption agencies, all of which are non-discriminatory and actively seek to recruit black families, these agencies also have specialized programs to recruit black families for adoption.

One Church One Child
Reverend George Clements, 607 East Oakwood Blvd., Chicago, IL 60653 (312)624-5375

National Black Child Development Institute
Carole Jones, 1463 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005 (202)387-1281

National Urban League
Johanne C. Dixon, Adoption Resource and Advocacy Center, 500 East 62nd Street, New York, NY 10021 (212)310-9239

Roxbury Children's Service
Joy Castello, 2406 Washington St., Roxbury, MA 02119 (617)445-6655

Give Us This Day, Inc.
P.O. Box 796-2207-B, Portland Road, Newberg, OR 97132

Homes For Black Children
Sydney Duncan, 2340 Calvert Street, Detroit, MI 48206 (313)869-2316

Homes For Black Children
Cynthia Ann Owens, 3131 East 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46218 (317)545-5281

Children's Home and Aid Society
Carolyn Rush, 1122 North Dearborn, Chicago, IL 60610 (312)944-3313

Florida Health and Rehabilitative Services
Cindy Morales, Counselor Supervisor, Children, Youth, and Families, 1000 Woodcock Rd., Orlando, FL 32803 (407)897-4130

Kansas City Children's Service League
P.O. Box 17-1273, Kansas City, KS 66117 (913)621-2016

Women's Christian Alliance
Mary S. Smith, Director of Adoption Service, 1610-1616 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19121 (215)236-9911

Family and Children Services
Mae H. Best, 929 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001 (202)289-1510

COAC Black Child Advocacy Program
875 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10001

Black Adoption Committee
Moses W. Gray, 1631 Kessler Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46208 (317)242-6777

Family Builders By Adoption
Cheryl Walton, 1230 2nd Ave., Oakland, CA 94606 (415)272-0204

Association of Black Social Workers
Child Adoption Counseling and Referral Service
Leora Neal, Executive Director, 271 West 125th Street, Rm. 414, New York, NY 10027 (212)222-5200

Urban League of Rhode Island, Inc.
Edith E. Baptista, Program Coordinator, MRA/One Church, One Child Program, Minority Recruitment Committee, 246 Prairie Avenue, Providence, RI 02905 (401)351-5000

Open Arms Adoption Project
Ella Ann Liggins, P.O. Box 15254, San Francisco, CA 94115

72. Hispanic Programs

Organizations which focus on the needs of Hispanic children:

National Coalition of Hispanic Mental Health
and Human Services Organization
1015 15th Street, N.W., Suite 402, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202)638-0505

Hispanic Adoption Program
New York Council on Adoptable Children
666 Broadway, Suite 820, New York, NY 10012 (212)475-0222

Puerto Rican Association for Community Affairs, Inc.
853 Broadway, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10003 (212)673-7320

Los Angeles County Department of Children's Services/Adoption Division
Mollie Cooper or Barbara Ahmad, 2550 West Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90006 (213)738-3266

73. Indian/Native American Programs

Organizations which focus extensively on the needs of Indian children and families:

Indian Adoptive Family Circle
NM Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 2348, Santa Fe, NM 87504-2348 (505)827-4109
(In New Mexico 1-800-525-8752)

Council of Three Rivers
American Indian Center, Inc.
200 Charles Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 (412)782-4457

Native American Adoption Resource Exchange
200 Charles St., Pittsburgh, PA 15238 (412)782-4457

74. Special Needs Children

In addition to National Committee For Adoption agencies, most of which place special needs children, the following agencies focus on placing special needs children.

AASK - America
(Aid to Adoption of Special Kids), 450 Sansome St., Suite 210, San Francisco, CA 94111 (415)434-2275

Children Unlimited, Inc.
Yolanda Fields, P.O. Box 11463, Columbia, SC 29211 (803)799-8311

Crossroads, Inc.
Myrna Otte or Ann Sinnott, 4640 W. 77th St., Suite 179, Minneapolis, MN 55435 (612)831-5707

Medina Children's Service
Marjorie M. Rovitte, Executive Director, P.O. Box 22638, Seattle, WA 98122 (206)461-4520

New York Spaulding for Children
22 West 27th Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10001 (212)696-9530

PLAN
P.O. Box 667, McMinnville, OR 97128 (503)472-8453

Project CAN
Family Service Centers, 2960 Roosevelt Blvd., Clearwater, FL 34641 (813)531-0481

Spaulding For Children
Judith McKenzie, Executive Director, P.O. Box 337, Chelsea, MI 48118 (313)475-8693

Spaulding For Children--Beech Brook
3737 Lander Road, Cleveland, OH 44124 (216)464-4445

Lutheran Social Service - Spaulding Midwest
Virginia Rodman, 1855 North Hillside, Wichita, KS 67214 (316)686-6647

Spaulding For Children - New Jersey
36 Prospect Street, Westfield, NJ 07090 (201)233-2282

Spaulding For Children - Southwest
4219 Richmond, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77027 (713)850-9707

75. Family Builders Agencies

A list of agencies affiliated with Family Builders Association specializing in the placement of special needs children:

Spaulding For Children
36 Prospect Street, Westfield, NJ 07090

Spaulding For Children
P.O. Box 337, Chelsea, MI 48118 (313)475-8693

Medina Children's Services
P.O. Box 22638, Seattle, WA 98122

Children Unlimited, Inc.
P.O. Box 11463, Columbia, SC 29211

Spaulding For Children
4219 Richmond, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77027 (713)850-9707

Project CAN
2960 Roosevelt Blvd., Clearwater, FL 33520

76. Selected Intercountry Adoption Agencies

There are two types of intercountry adoptions--agency-based, in which the applicant works with a United States-based agency to facilitate the adoption, and direct, in which the applicant works directly with an orphanage or agency in the child's country of origin. Following is a list of a few of the agencies in the United States which facilitate intercountry adoptions (and the main countries they work with):

Holt International Children's Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 2880, Eugene, OR 97402 (Korea, Phillippines, India, Thailand, Latin America) (503)687-2202

FCVN (Friends of Children of Various Nations
600 Gilpin Street, Denver, CO 80218 (Vietnam, Korea, India) (303)321-8251

Children's Home Society of Minnesota
2230 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108 (612)646-6393 (Korea, Guatemala, Colombia, Mexico, India, Hong Kong)

Welcome House
Barbara Bird, ACSW, P.O. Box 836, Doylestown, PA 18901 (215)345-0430 (Korea, Philippines, India, China, El Salvador, Colombia, Argentina)

Crossroads Adoption Agency
4640 W. 77th St., Minneapolis, MN 55435 (India, Colombia, Philippines) (612)831-5767

International Mission of Hope
C/O FCVN (India)

Universial Aid for Children, Inc.
8760 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Miami Shores, FL 33138 (305)754-4886

Furthermore, the following member agencies which support the National Committee For Adoption specialize in intercountry adoptions or otherwise facilitate a considerable number of intercountry adoptions:

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Adoption Services Information Agency/ASIA,
7720 Alaska Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012 (202)726-7193
-The Barker Foundation, 4114 River Rd. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016 (202)363-7751

ILLINOIS - Bethany Christian Services, 9730 S. Western St., #203, Evergreen Park, IL 60642 (312)422-9626

INDIANA - Bethany Christian Services, 9595 N. Whitley Dr., #210, Indianapolis, IN 46240-1308 (317)848-9518

LOUISIANA - Children's Bureau of New Orleans, The Maison Blanche Building, 921 Canal Street, Suite 840, New Orleans, LA 70112 (504)525-2366

MICHIGAN - Bethany Christian Services, 901 Eastern Avenue, N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503-1295 (616)459-6273,
1-800-BETHANY (national)
-Bethany Christian Services, Dolly Madison Office Ctr., Suite 250, 32500 Concord Drive, Madison Hghts., MI 48071-1140
(313)588-9400

MINNESOTA - Bethany Christian Services, 421 South Main, Stillwater, MN 55082-5127 (612)439-9603

NEW YORK - Spence-Chapin Services, 6 East 94th Street, New York, NY 10028 (212)369-0300,

NORTH CAROLINA - Bethany Christian Services, 25 Reed Street, P.O. Box 15569,
Asheville, NC 28813-0569 (704)274-7146

OHIO - Bethany Christian Services, Walter L. Mitchell Bldg., #340, 1655 W. Market Street, Akron, OH 44313-7004
(216)867-2362

SOUTH CAROLINA - Bethany Christian Services, 300 University Ridge #114, Greenville, SC 29601-3645
(803)235-2273

TEXAS - The Edna Gladney Center, 2300 Hemphill Street, Forth Worth, TX 76110 (817)926-3304, 1-800-772-2740 (Texas only), 1-800-433-2922 (other states)
-Homes of St. Mark, 1302 Marshall, Houston, TX 77006 (713)522-2800, 1-800-392-3807 (Texas only)

WISCONSIN - Bethany Christian Services, W255 N477 Grandview Blvd., #207, Waukesha, WI 53188-1606
(414)547-6557

77. Intercountry Adoption Groups

Following is a list of a few of the many parent support groups providing information and encouragement in the field of intercountry adoption. AFA/OURS provides the most extensive information through its excellent magazine; there are over 100 OURS chapters throughout the country. Each of the groups listed below publishes a newsletter; subscriptions may be included with membership fees or may be purchased separately.

Adoptive Families of America (formerly OURS)
3307 Hwy. 100 North, Suite 203, Minneapolis, MN 55422 (612)535-4829, Magazine: News of OURS

Families Adopting Children Everywhere
P.O. Box 28058, Northwood Station, Baltimore, MD 21239, Newsletter: FACE Facts

Holt International Families
P.O. Box 2880, Eugene, OR 97402, Newsletter: HI Families

Welcome House Adoptive Parents Group
P.O. Box 265, Doylestown, PA 18901, Newsletter: The Welcomer

Families Adopting Inter-Racially
6267 West Walbrook Drive, San Jose, CA 95129, Newsletter: FAIR

International Concerns Committee for Children
Anna Marie Merrill, 911 Cypress Drive, Boulder, CO 80303 (303)494-8333, Report on Foreign Adoptions

78. Groups Interested in Foster Care and Adoption

These act as clearinghouses, provide publications, and resource materials:

Catholic Charities USA
Rosemary Winder Strange, 1319 F St., N.W., Washington, DC 20004 (202)639-8400

Child Welfare League of America
440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001 (202)638-2952

North America Council on Adoptable Children
1821 University Ave., Suite S-275, St. Paul, MN 55104

Administration for Children, Youth and Families
Office of Human Development Services, DHHS, Washington, D.C. 20201

National Association of Social Workers
7981 Eastern Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301)565-0333

Court Appointed Special Advocates Association
Alice Ott, 60 Lafayette St., 8th Floor, New York, NY 10013 (212)233-0498 or 227-2475

National League Resource Center for Child Advocacy and Protection
American Bar Association, 1800 M St., N.W., S-200, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202)331-2250

National Association of Homes for Children
Brenda Russell Nordlinger, Executive Director, 1701 K St., N.W., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20006 (202223-7447

National Resource Center For Special Needs Adoption
P.O. Box 337, Chelsea, MI 48118 (313)475-8693

National Adoption Information Clearinghouse
Suite 600, 1400 Eye St., N.W., Washington, DC 20005

Stars of David International
c/o Michele and Chuck Fried, P.O. Box 11525, Philadelphia, PA 19116 (an information/support/social network for Jewish and partly-Jewish adoptive families)

Family Life Information Exchange
P.O. Box 10716, Rockville, MD 20850 (301) 770-3662

79. Search Groups

These organizations help adoptive children and biological parents locate each other:

CUB - Concerned United Birthparents
2000 Walker St., Des Moines, IA 50317

ALMA - Adoptees' Liberty Movement Association
P.O. Box 154, Washington Bridge Station, New York, NY 10033 (212)581-1568

Triadoption Library, Inc.
c/o Mary Jo Rillera, P.O. Box 638, Westminster, CA 92684

International Soundex Reunion Registry
P.O. Box 2312, Carson City, NV 89702-2312

APPENDIX A. Methodology of the National Adoption Survey Conducted by the National Committee For Adoption

Appendix A. 1. Reason for Survey

The National Committee For Adoption, Washington, D.C., collected 1986 survey data from States, departments of public welfare, vital statistics offices, and courts because of the dearth in national adoption data. More background on the history of federal adoption data collection efforts and why NCFA undertook this activity is described in the Foreword and Chapter 12. The Federal Government was not involved in this effort. Essentially, the survey was undertaken in an attempt to provide useful data to adoption agencies, Federal and State policymakers, social workers, adoption attorneys, news media, prospective adoptive parents, birthmothers, birthfathers, and adult adopted children.

Appendix A. 2. Survey Methodology—Data Collection

Questionnaires were mailed to each State with individually-addressed letters (see Appendix A.5). The first questionnaire mailing by the National Committee For Adoption was in January 1988. Second questionnaire mailings to new referral sources, and to replace lost questionnaires, occurred March-July 1988. Telephone reminders and clarifications, and requests for alternate sources of information were conducted by NCFA April-October 1988.

The NCFA State Adoption Survey consisted of 3 parts:

Part I. - State statistics.
Part II. - State regulations.
Part III. - State contact persons in the adoption field.

The State statistics are presented in Part III of this book, "Adoption Statistics". The State Regulations are presented in Part II of this book, "Adoption Regulations". The State contact persons in the adoption field are presented in Appendix A.6. and Chapters 60-79 of this book, "Organizations and Resources".

Data tabulations on foreign adoption were designed and purchased by NCFA from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, and combined with NCFA's State Adoption Survey data in order to complete the U.S. adoption picture.

Appendix A. 3. Survey Procedures for Data Cleanup

Posting, tabulation, verification, and calculations of data were done by NCFA's statistical consultants, with interactive review for completeness and consistency done by NCFA staff. Calculations and statistical typing were 100 percent verified.

Twenty-two States provided all eight adoption data items (columns a-h on table 1) for 1986; an additional 16 States reported at least five of the eight items, and every State plus the District of Columbia provided at least some data.

Standardized statistical procedures were then used to complete the missing data cells in order to make reasonable estimates of complete and comprehensive State and National adoption data. The basic procedure used was that of proportional distribution, often called "raking" or "imputation". The basic assumption is that the adoption patterns in each nonreporting State are similar to those in all reporting States summed together. Partial reported data were always retained, and the missing data when computed were always made consistent internally.

The relative proportions of (b) related domestic adoptions and (c) unrelated domestic adoptions were applied to States which did not report a and b. These were derived from 39 States which did report (a) and (b). These proportions were applied to (a) to derive their missing data for (b) and (c).

A total of 29 States reported totals for (d), (e), and (f). These percentage distributions were applied to (c) to derive the missing data for (d), (e), and (f), respectively. This entire procedure was done twice, once for the 24 States where independent adoption is legal (and a positive number is expected), and once for the four States where independent adoption is not legal (zero independent adoptions expected). If only one of the three categories (d, e, or f) was reported, the percentage distributions for only the two missing categories were applied to derive the missing data.

Category (g), unrelated domestic adoptions of infants as included in (c), unrelated domestic adoptions, were both reported by 31 States. The number of unreported infant adoptions in (g) was derived by applying the proportions observed in States where both (g) and (c) were reported. If (c) was not originally reported, it was derived by the procedure described earlier, and then the number for (g) was derived by multiplying (c) by the proportion of infant adoptions (g) observed in the 31 States where both (c) and (g) were reported.

Category (h), unrelated domestic adoptions of children with special needs, which was included in (c), unrelated domestic adoptions, were both reported by 25 States. The number of unreported special needs adoptions in (h) was derived by applying the proportions observed in States where both (c) and (h) were reported. If (c) was not originally reported, it was derived by the procedures described earlier, and then the number for (h) was derived by multiplying (c) by the proportion of special needs adoptions (h) observed in the 25 States where both (c) and (h) were reported.

Appendix A. 4. Survey Limitations and Undercounts

Because States are neither required by Federal law nor reimbursed by the Federal government to collect, analyse, or disseminate adoption data, there is great variability in State activity in this area. There is no uniform minimum data set which all States produce. Furthermore, privacy and confidentiality guarantees are embodied in many State laws, and this further restricts the release of detailed statistical information and availability of public use data tapes with individual records. Finally, budget cuts in State statistical offices have often led to a maintenance of only the legally-required statistical systems, leaving adoption statistics to be variously produced by many States on an "as needed" basis only for policy and record-keeping purposes. Given these constraints, NCFA managed to collect complete data (all eight data items) from 22 States, and the majority of data (five or more of the eight items) from 16 additional States.

However, NCFA believes that some of the reported numbers were partial counts or undercounts, and has tried to note so whenever suspected in section 6 of this appendix. Furthermore, NCFA's instructions to States in Part I of the survey asked States to estimate data, use provisional data, use 1985 data, the judgment of State adoption experts, and/or other reasonable sources. When these types of estimates were made, NCFA has reported them as such in section 6 of this appendix. Also, missing State data were estimated based on the proportional distributions for those data in reporting States. This procedure yields reliable National estimates, but sometimes causes extreme variability in counts within individual States because the reported data and the estimated data exist side by side, and internal consistency for subtotals was forced to make the subtotals equal to the State total.

Despite these limitations, NCFA feels that the best possible survey was done, given the circumstances. A standardized questionnaire with clear instructions was used, and a high degree of statistical rigor was used in collecting and calculating the data.

Appendix A. 5. Questionnaire and Cover Letter for National Committee For Adoption Survey

National Committee For Adoption
P.O. Box 33366 / Washington, D.C. 20033 / 202-638-0466

National Advisory Board
Gerald Ford
Sen. Lloyd Bentsen
Rep. Thomas Bliley, Jr.
Kitty Carruthers
Peter Carruthers
Ralph Davidson
Oscar de la Renta
Sen. Gordon Humphrey
Rep. James Oberstar
Hon. William Simon
Meryl Streep
Jerry Weintraub
Rep. Jim Wright

Officers
Louis Stern, Chairman
Ruby Lee Piester, Vice Chairman
Richard Van Deelen, Secretary
Michael Barone, Treasurer
C. Harold Brown, Counsel

Committee Leadership
Michael Barone, Finance and Budget
Peter Simon, Development
James Piester, Investment Management
Jane Edwards, Membership
Toni McHugh, Nominations
Lou Hill Davidson, Public Education
Richard Zeilinger, Public Policy
Delia Stroud, State Legislation
Larry Washburn, Standards and Practice
Lee Trager Stein, Infant Adoption
Theodore Kim, International Adoption
Sr. Maureen Joyce, Maternity Services
Robert DeBolt, Special Needs Adoption

Staff
William Pierce, President

February 17, 1988

Dr. Jerry Milner, Supervisor
State Department of Human Resources
Department of Pensions and Security
Office of Adoptions
64 N. Union St.
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Dr. Milner:

We need your help in completing our survey of your State's 1986 adoption statistics, current regulations, and other resources. We will acknowledge your assistance and publish the results in our 1988 ADOPTION FACTBOOK, much as we did in our 1985 ADOPTION FACTBOOK (complimentary copy enclosed). Your answers to our survey questions are not only of valuable significance for your State, but also for the United States because we compile them on a national basis. At the present time there is no other private agency or Federal organization which collects and compiles this information. Our FACTBOOK is sensible and comprehensive. As with the 1985 ADOPTION FACTBOOK, our 1988 ADOPTION FACTBOOK will be a valuable resource for members of Congress considering legislation, and for those needing accurate information concerning adoption including the media, adoption agencies, attorneys, social workers, birth mothers, and prospective adoptive parents.

We know that helping us with this research will take hours of your valuable time. But your efforts will contribute directly to better adoption placements and building stronger families.

In addition to completing the statistics questionnaire (Part I) and regulations questionnaire (Part II), would you please furnish us with your State lists of organizations and resources (Part III)? Please return Parts I, II, and III to me at:

National Committee For Adoption
P. O. Box 33366
Washington, D.C. 20033

Please use the P. O. Box above as we are about to move to our new offices. Please call me, Jeff Rosenberg, or Mary Beth Seader at (202) 638-0466 if you need guidance in completing this request.

You may keep the enclosed FACTBOOK, and I promise to send you a complimentary copy of our 1988 FACTBOOK to reward you for your efforts. Thank you in advance for your valuable assistance.

Sincerely,

William L. Pierce, Ph.D.
President

Adoption Survey
National Committee For Adoption

P.O. Box 33366
Washington, D.C. 20033
(202) 638-0466

PART I. ADOPTION STATISTICS FOR ____________________ , 1986

(Numbers filled in below for your guidance are 1982 statistics from Table 1, page 108 of NCFA's 1985 ADOPTION FACTBOOK)

Do not include adoptions of children from other countries in any of the numbers below)

1982	1986	
(____)	1. ________	Number of total adoptions, 1986. *Source*: ____________________
(____)	2. ________	Of total adoptions reported on line 1, how many were related adoptions (the child of one member of the couple, or related in some other way to the adoptive parents)? *Source*: ____________________
(____)	3. ________	Of total adoptions on line 1, how many were unrelated to the adoptive parents? NOTE: Related adoptions (line 2) plus unrelated adoptions (line 3) must equal total adoptions (line 1). *Source*: ____________________
(____)	4. ________	Of unrelated adoptions reported on line 3, how many were unrelated adoptions handled by public agencies? *Source*: ____________________
(____)	5. ________	Of unrelated adoptions on line 3, how many were unrelated adoptions handled by private agencies? *Source*: ____________________
(____)	6. ________	Of unrelated adoptions on line 3, how many were unrelated adoptions handled by private individuals? NOTE: Public agency adoptions reported on line 4, private agency adoptions on line 5, and private individual adoptions on line 6 must equal unrelated adoptions total on line 3. *Source*: ____________________

(____) 7. ________

Of unrelated adoptions on line 3, how many were "infants"? (Since placements are often not finalized until after babies pass their first year, include in this number infants up to the age of two. The number you report here will be less than the number on line 3 because many unrelated adoptions are age two and over).

Source: ____________________

(____) 8. ________

Of unrelated adoptions reported on line 3, how many were unrelated adoptions of children with special needs? NOTE: Unrelated special needs adoptions are usually defined as disabled physically or emotionally, sibling groups, older children, or children of minority or ethnic backgrounds.

Source: ____________________

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADOPTION STATISTICS LINES 1-8

A. Please exclude all adoptions of children from other countries. (NCFA has already received this information from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization for your State for 1986.)

B. Please estimate 1986 data if you don't have an exact count. If necessary, use 1985 data, provisional data, the judgment of your State adoption experts, summaries assembled from adoption agencies, or any other source which you consider reasonable. For example, if you determine that the number is 200-300, report 250. It is far more preferable for you to estimate based on your familiarity with State statistics than to have us estimate here in Washington, D.C. based on patterns observed in neighboring States. Make sure your counts are consistent for lines 1-8.

C. Please reference the source of your numbers entered on lines 1-8 as precisely as possible. Note that this was done on pages 159-167 of the enclosed 1985 ADOPTION FACTBOOK. Feel free to attach any reports, technical documents, or related material used to derive your counts and estimates. Specify whether each number you provide is an exact count or an estimate. If an estimate, describe method used to derive estimate. Note on the attached material whether it pertains to the information reported on line 1, 2, 3 ... or 8.

PART II. CURRENT ADOPTION REGULATIONS FOR ______________

INSTRUCTIONS:

A. Please see pages 76-85 of the enclosed 1985 ADOPTION FACTBOOK to observe how NCFA previously summarized this type of information.

B. Please reference the source of your information for each response if possible. Please attach copies of pertinent regulations, policies, or legislation needed to clarify your response. NCFA will cite this material in the 1988 ADOPTION FACTBOOK, and it will assist us greatly in handling frequent requests for technical assistance.

1. Is independent adoption legal in your State?

____

Source: ______________________________

2. In an independent adoption, is a home study required before placement?

____

Source: ______________________________

3. In an independent adoption, is a home study required before finalization?

____

Source: ______________________________

4. In an independent adoption, can anonymity between the adoptive parents and the birth mother be maintained, or must identifying information be shared between them?

____

Source: ______________________________

5. Is it legal for a private-for-profit organization to be licensed as a child placing agency?

____

Source: ______________________________

6. Can prospective adoptive parents from another State apply for adoption in your state?

____

Source: ______________________________

7. Is it legal for prospective adoptive parents to advertise for a baby in the newspapers, etc.?

____

Source: ____________________________________

8. Does your State permit access to adoption records without a court order?

____

Source: ____________________________________

9. What are State law(s) and agency practices regarding sealed records being available to adoptees? (Specify age requirements, by court order, through voluntary mutual consent adoptive registry, through search and consent procedures, and/or other established agency practices.)

____

Source: ____________________________________

10. How soon after birth can the birth mother sign relinquishment papers?

____

Source: ____________________________________

11. What is the length of time given a birth mother to revoke her consent once she signs relinquishment papers?

____

Source: ____________________________________

12. Must the biological father sign the relinquishment papers? Under what circumstances?

____

Source: ____________________________________

13. What is the length of time between filing the petition to adopt and final adoption?

____

Source: ____________________________________

PART III.

ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCES

INSTRUCTIONS:

A. Please see pages 132-147 of the enclosed 1985 ADOPTION FACTBOOK to see how NCFA previously reported this information.

B. Please supply us with lists of your State's adoption specialists, adoptive parent support groups, photo listing books, ICPC (Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children) Administrators, adoption exchanges, and interracial and intercultural support groups. Phone numbers and key contact persons should be included whenever possible.

Appendix A. 6. Sources of Data Shown in Table 1

ALABAMA
a-h - Based on in-house records reported by Dr. Jerry Milner, Supervisor
State Department of Human Resources
Department of Pensions and Security
Office of Adoptions
64 N. Union St.
Montgomery, AL 36130
g - May include older children if sibling groups were placed together
i - Statistical Analysis Branch, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Washington, D.C. Data ordered by NCFA.

ALASKA
a, b, c, g - Ms. Joan Brooks, Registrar and John Tomaro, Analyst
Bureau of Vital Statistics
Vital Statistics Pouch H
Juneau, AK 99811-0675
d, e, f, h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States. Methodology is explained at the end of this section.
i - INS.

ARIZONA
a - Ms. Princess Lucas-Wilson
Arizona Department of Economic Security
1400 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
b-h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.

ARKANSAS
a - Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health,
4815 West Markam St., Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3867
b-h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

CALIFORNIA
a - Reported and b-h estimated by Ms. Barbara Mason, Statistical Services and Mr. James W. Brown, Chief, Adoptions Branch
Department of Social Services
Office of Adoption Policy Bureau
744 P Street
Mail Station 19-67
Sacramento, CA 95814
Note: Mr. Ritch Hemstreet, Chief, Adoptions Policy Bureau reported that 1-3% of independent adoptions dispensed in California courts result in denial of petition; therefore, completed independent adoptions may be 1-3% lower than reported.
i - INS.

Note: An unknown proportion of the difference between reported data for 1982 and 1986 (5,069 total adoptions in 1986, 10,500 total adoptions in 1982; 1,093 related domestic adoptions in 1986, 6,117 related domestic adoptions in 1982) is due to a change in sources of data for California in 1982 and 1986. In 1982, data were provided by the Vital Statistics Branch, Department

(California - continued)
of Health Services, Sacramento, CA. Since 1982, the Vital Statistics Branch ceased collecting data on adoptions. The 1986 data were supplied by the Adoptions Branch, Department of Social Services, Sacramento, CA.

COLORADO
a-c - Reported from amended birth certificates and d-h estimated by
Ms. Charlotte Little, Adoption Program Supervisor
Division of Child Welfare Services
Colorado State Dept. of Social Services
717 Seventeenth Street, P.O. Box 181000
Denver, CO 80218-0899
i - INS.

CONNECTICUT
a-h - Based on Connecticut Adoption Resource Exchange Annual Report
Fiscal year 7/1/85-6/30/86 and reported by Ms. Jean Watson
Department of Children and Youth Services
Adoption Resource Exchange
170 Sigourney Street
Hartford, CT 06105
g - Estimated by DCYS from above source.
i - INS.

DELAWARE
a-e, g, h - Reported by Ms. Carol King
Department of Children, Youth and Their Families
330 E 30th Street
Wilmington, DE 19802
f - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States. The total for f was then added to c and a.
i - INS.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
a - Published in table 29 of 1987 Annual Report, District of Columbia Courts Report, Washington, D.C.
b-h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

FLORIDA
a-c - Includes birth certificate changes from Florida Courts for both Florida born and non-Florida born persons; information from Office of Vital Statistics, Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, P.O. Box 210, Jacksonville, FL 32231-0042
d-h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

GEORGIA
a-h - Ms. Sonja January, Public Information
Department of Human Resources
878 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Room 417
Atlanta, GA 30309
Ms. January included 87 foreign adoptions in the totals, which were subtracted from the data she reported using proportional distribution.
i - INS.

HAWAII
a-c and g - Based on Hawaii State Department of Human Services Planning Office data reported by Ms. Janice Wolf, Administrative Director
P. O. Box 2560
Office of Administrative Director of Courts
The Judiciary/State of Hawaii
Honolulu, HI 96804
d-f and h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States
Reported data do not include adoptions from the second judicial court (Maui County) because they were unavailable. These categories are therefore undercounts.
i - INS.

IDAHO
a-g - Reported by Ms. Shirley Wheatley
Department of Health and Welfare
450 West Oate Street
10th Floor
Boise, ID 83720
h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

ILLINOIS
a and b - State Registrar of Vital Records, State Board of Health,
605 West Jefferson St.,
Springfield, Illinois 62707
g - Based on incomplete counts, but showed that 58.6% of unrelated adoptions were of infants age 2 and under; this percentage was applied to (b) to derive 2,564 infant adoptions.
d - Ms. Glynne Gervais
Department of Children and Family Services
100 W. Randolph
Suite 6-210
Chicago, IL 60601
c, e, f, h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

INDIANA
a-h - Ms. Ruth Lambert
Department of Child Welfare and Social Services
145 S. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46225
i - INS.

IOWA
a-h - Ms. Margaret Corkery, Adoption Program Manager
Department of Human Services
Bureau of Adult, Child and Family Services
Hoover Building, 5th Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319
i - INS.

KANSAS
d - Reported by Ms. Barbara Stogill
Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Youth Services
Smith Wilson Building
2700 W. 6th Street
Topeka, KS 66606
a-c, e-h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

KENTUCKY
a-h - Ms. Sue Howard
Cabinet For Human Resources
CHR Bldg., 6th Floor West
275 E. Main Street
Frankfurt, KY 40621
i - INS.

LOUISIANA
a-c - Reported and d-h estimated by Mr. Joel McLain, Adoption Program Manager
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Child, Youth and Family Services
P. O. Box 3318
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
a-c - Louisiana Department of Health and Human Resources, Office of Human Development, Information Management Unit, internal report.
i - INS.

MAINE
a, b, c - Reported for 1985 and g, h estimated by Ms. Ellen Naor
State Registrar for Vital Statistics
Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics
Department of Human Services
State House Station #11
Augusta, ME 04333
d, e, f - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

MARYLAND
a-f - Reported by Ms. Fern Blake
Department of Social Services
Social Services Administration
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
Of the 1,400 adoptions reported by Ms. Blake, the status of 11 cases was not available, so NCFA allocated the 11 cases to force consistency in the counts.
g-h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

MASSACHUSETTS
a - Mr. William Ryan, c/o Chief Justice Alfred Podolski,
Administrative Office of Probate Courts
P.O. Box 840, Dedham, Mass. 02026
b-h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

MICHIGAN
a - 1986 Annual Report of the State Court Administrator from Mr. Richard Hoekstra
Director of Adoption Services
Department of Social Services
P. O. Box 30037
Lansing, MI 48909
b-h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
g - INS.

MINNESOTA
a-h - Ms. Sandy Erickson
Department of Human Services
Children's Services Division
444 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-3830
i - INS.

MISSISSIPPI
a - Public Health Statistics
State Board of Health
P.O. Box 1708
Jackson, MS 39205
b-h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

MISSOURI
a, d, and h - Reported from Missouri vital statistics and Missouri Department of Social Services Alternative Care Tracking System and b, c estimated by
Melody A. Emmert, Deputy Director
Children's Services
P. O. Box 88
Jefferson City, MO 65103
e, f, g - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

MONTANA
a - Mr. Robert Nelson
Division of Vital Statistics
Helena, MT 59604
b-h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

NEBRASKA
a-e, g-h - From adoption birth certificates filed and other Dept. of Social Services records, reported by
Ms. Alrita Fritts, MSW
Department of Social Services
301 Centurian Mall South
P. O. Box 95026
Lincoln, NE 68509
The statistics reported included 83 foreign adoptions which were therefore proportionately subtracted by NCFA.
f - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

NEVADA
Assembled by Ms. Gloria Handley, Chief of Social Services
Nevada State Welfare Division
Department of Human Services
2527 N. Carson Street
Capital Complex
Carson City, NV 89710
a, b - Does not include all step-parent adoptions.
a, e - LDS Social Services, Catholic Community Services of Nevada, and Nevada State Welfare Divison
b, c, d, f, g, h - Nevada State Welfare Division
i - INS.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
a-h - Assembled by Ms. Glenna Law, Adoption Unit
Department of Health and Human Services
Division for Children and Youth Services
6 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301-6522

NEW JERSEY
a, g - Reported and b-f and h estimated by R. Denise Mortimer
Division of Youth and Family Services
Central Office Adoption Unit
CN 717
1 South Montgomery Street
Trenton, NJ 08625
g - Is for 0-1 year olds only.
i - INS.

NEW MEXICO
a-h - Reported by Ms. Patricia Shannon
Department of Human Services
P. O. Box 2348
Room 515
Santa Fe, NM 87504-2348
i - INS.

NEW YORK
a, d, h - Reported by Ms. Gail Miller
New York State Office of Court Administration
Albany, NY
b, c, e, f, g - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
h - Includes handicapped or "hard to place" over 5 years of age.
i - INS.

NORTH CAROLINA
a-f - From FY 85-86 data in N.C. Div. Soc. Services Annual Completed Adoptions Report (PQ 463 and RPT6-1) and reported by Ms. Robin Peacock
North Carolina Department of
Social Services
Division of Social Services
325 N. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27611
d - Includes some foreign adoptions which DSS was unable to separate out.
g, h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

NORTH DAKOTA
a-h - From "Adoptions Granted in North Dakota, North Dakota Department of Human Services" and reported by Ms. Virginia Petersen
Administrator of Adoptions
Department of Human Services
Children and Family Services
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505
i - INS.

OHIO
a-f - Reported by Mr. Jeff Peifer
Department of Human Services
Bureau of Reports and Statistics
30 East Broad Street, 33rd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Source was ODPW-4270 submitted by County Probate Courts.
d-f - Adjusted downward by NCFA from the 1,670 total reported by DHS to conform to the total of 1,569 reported by DHS in c.
g, h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

Note: Total adoptions in Ohio for 1986 may represent an undercount and the change from 7,376 total adoptions in 1982 to 1,898 in 1986 may in actuality be less than reported. This may also be true for the change from 5,597 related domestic adoptions in 1982 to 329 in 1986. 1982 data were provided by the Division of Vital Statistics, Columbus, OH. 1986 data from the Division of Vital Statistics showed a total number of 5,855 adoptions. However, this number included all children born in Ohio during 1986 and adopted in another state. It also included a number of children born in other states and adopted in Ohio; it was not possible to break out these numbers from the total reported by DVS. Because of the ambiguity of the data provided by the Division of Vital Statistics for 1986, a decision was made to report the data provided by the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Children's Placement Services, Columbus, OH, which, while representing a probable undercount, was less ambiguous than Division of Vital Statistics data.

OKLAHOMA
a-c - Reported by Ms. Jane Connor
State Adoption Program
Department of Human Services
Box 25352
Oklahoma City, OK 73125
d-h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

OREGON
a-h - Based on fiscal years 7/86-6/87 data reported by Mr. Fred Stock
Department of Human Services
Children's Services Division
198 Commercial Street, S.E.
Salem, OR 97310
g - Includes ages 0-3.
i - INS.

PENNSYLVANIA
a - Mr. Robert Gioffre
Office on Children, Youth and Families
Department of Public Welfare
P. O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105
b-h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

RHODE ISLAND
a-g - From Rhode Island Family Court Information System information supplied by Ms. Janet Diano
Administrative Office of Courts
Garrahy Complex
1 Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903
h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

SOUTH CAROLINA
a-c, g - Based on computer table supplied by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control,
Vital Records Division
1221 Gregg St.
Columbia, SC 29201
d, e, f, h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

SOUTH DAKOTA
a-f, h - Estimated by Ms. Pat Stewart
Division of Child Protection
Department of Social Services
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
g - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

TENNESSEE
a-f - Tennessee Department of Human Services Annual Adoption Statistical Report 1986-1987 and reported by Ms. Joyce Harris
Department of Human Services
Citizens Plaza
400 Deaderick, 14th Floor
Nashville, TN 37219
g-h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States because g-h totals reported by Ms. Harris were for public agency adoptions only.
i - INS.

TEXAS
a - Division of Vital Records, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Texas Department of Health,
1100 W. 49th St
Austin, TX 78756-3191
b-c - Estimated as a 50-50 distribution of total adoptions by Ms. Susan Klickman
Department of Human Services
Winters Complex
P. O. Box 2960
Austin, TX 78769
d, e, f, g - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
h - Estimated by Ms. Susan Klickman, cited above
i - INS.

UTAH
a - Reported by Utah Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics, Utah Department of Health, 288 North 1460 West, P.O. Box 16700, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-0070
b-g - Estimated based on one month April 1988 adoptions
h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

VERMONT
a-c, g, h - Ms. Maureen Thompson
Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Social Services Division
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05676
a and g - Based on Probate Court Statistics.
h - Based on SRS records.
i - INS.

VIRGINIA
a-h - John F. Peck, Adoptions Reports Unit
Virginia Department of Social Services
8007 Discovery Drive
Richmond, VA 23229-8699
a-g - Based on Annual Report - ARRIS generated.
h - DSS estimate based on a ratio from previous years data.
i - INS.

WASHINGTON
a-h - From Adoption Data Cards, Superior Courts of Washington, and
reported by Mr. Patrick Weber
Department of Social and Health Services
OB 3 & F
Olympia, WA 98504
i - INS.

WEST VIRGINIA
a - Registrar of Vital Statistics, State Department of Health,
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
b-h - Estimated by Ms. Rozella Archer, Director
Family Child Services
OAS
1900 Washington Street East
Charleston, WV 25305
i - INS.

WISCONSIN
a-h - Projected from 1985 data on adoptions completed and from 1986 and 1987
data on placements by Ms. Karen Oghelai
Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Community Services
1 West Wilson Street
P. O. Box 7851
Madison, WI 53707
Some of the special needs adoptions reported in h may be related adoptions.
i - INS.

WYOMING
d - Ms. Pat McDaniel
Department of Social Services
Hathaway Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002
a, b, c, d, f, g, h - Estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States.
i - INS.

NOTES: As noted, some data were estimated by NCFA based on data from reporting States. This procedure is described in Appendix A.3.

Bibliography

Abrahamse AF, Morrison PA, and Waite LJ: Teenagers Willing to Consider Single Parenthood: Who Is at Greatest Risk? *Family Planning Perspectives.* Vol. 20, No. 1, pp. 13-18, Jan./Feb. 1988.

Administration For Children, Youth and Families (ACYF): *Substitute Care - Adoption: 1985: Child Welfare Chart Book*. Prepared by Maximus, Inc., #8351, May 1988.

ACYF: *Adoption: 1985: Child Welfare Statistical Fact Book*. Prepared by Maximus, Inc., #8351, May 1988.

ACYF: *Substitute Care: 1985: Child Welfare Statistical Fact Book.* Prepared by Maximus, Inc., #8351, May 1988.

ACYF: *Indian Child Welfare: A Status Report*. (Final Report of the Survey of Indian Child Welfare and Implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act and Section 428, of the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980). April 18, 1988.

ACYF: *Legacies of Loss, Visions of Gain: An Inside Look at Adoption Disruption.* Prepared by Susan Partridge, Helaine Hornby, and Thomas McDonald of the University of Southern Maine Center for Research and Advanced Study Grant No. 90-PD-86555, 1986.

Altstein H and Rosenberg J: Transracial Adoption: A Point of Reflection? Presented at the Third National Conference on Intercultural Families, Washington, DC, October 29, 1986.

Amatruda C and Baldwin J: Current Adoption Practices. *Journal of Pediatrics.* Vol. 38, pp. 208-212, Feb. 1951.

American Public Welfare Association: *Report on the Adoption and Foster Care Data Collection Survey.* August 1988.

American Public Welfare Assocation (APWA): *Characteristics of Children in Substitute and Adoptive Care*. The Voluntary Cooperative Information System, June 1985.

Annapolis Evening Capital: AIDS Kids Shoulder a Bleak Life. 9/4/87.

Bachrach CA: Adoption Plans, Adopted Children, and Adoptive Mothers. *Journal of Marriage and The Family*. 48 (May): pp. 243-253, 1986.

Barth RP: Disruption in Older Child Adoptions. *Public Welfare*, pp. 23-29, Winter 1988.

Bass C: Matchmaker - Matchmaker: Older-Child Adoption Failures. *Child Welfare*, LIV, 7, pp. 505-512, 1975.

Bawden N: *The Finding*. Lathrop Press, 1988.

Bonham GF: Who Adopts: The Relationship of Adoption and Social-Demographic Characteristics of Women. Journal of Marriage and The Family. (39): pp. 295-306, 1977.

Boyne J, Denby L, Kettenring JR, and Wheeler W: The Shadow of Success: A Statistical Analysis of Outcomes of Adoptions of Hard-to-Place Children. Westfield, N.J. Spaulding for Children. 1984.

Brinich PM and Brinich MA: Adoption and Adaptation. Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease. Vol. 170, No. 8, pp. 489-493, 1982.

Bureau of the Census: Households, Families, Marital Status, and Living Arrangements: March 1988. Current Population Reports, Serices P-20, No. 432, Advance Report, September 1988.

Byrd AD: The Case for Confidential Adoption. Public Welfare, pp. 20-46, Fall 1988.

Children's Defense Fund: Teenage Pregnancy: An Advocate's Guide to the Numbers. Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Clearinghouse, Washington, DC, 1988.

Children's Home Society of Minnesota: Description of Post-Legal Adoption Counseling and Support Services. 2230 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108. No date.

Ehlers FM: Illinois Agrees to Eliminate Racist Placement Policies and Procedures. The Children's Voice. Vol. III, March, 1986.

Fennelly K: El Embarazo Precoz: Childbearing Among Hispanic Teenagers in the United States. School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, March 1988.

Festinger T: Necessary Risk: A Study of Adoptions and Disrupted Adoptive Placements. Child Welfare League of America, Washington, DC, 1986.

Flango V: The Adoption Information Improvement Feasibility Study. State Court Journal, pp. 13-15, Fall 1987.

Friede A, Harris JR, Kobayashi JM, Shaw FE, Shuemaker-Nawas PC, Kane MA: Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus From Asian Children to Their American Families. American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 78, No. 1, pp. 26-29, Jan. 1988.

Gill O and Jackson B: Adoption and Race - Black, Asian and Mixed Race Children in White Families. St. Martin's Press, NY, 1983.

Governor's Task Force to Study Adoption Procedures in Maryland: Growing up Alone: Children Waiting for Families. 1987.

Grow L and Shapiro D: Black Children, White Parents: A Study of Transracial Adoption. Child Welfare League of America, NY, 1974.

Gurak DT, Smith DA, Goldson MF: *The Minority Foster Child: A Comparative Study of Hispanic, Black and White Children*. *Fordham University, Monograph No. 9, 1979*.

Immigration and Naturalization Service. *The Immigration of Adopted and Prospective Adoptive Children*. U.S. *Department of Justice, Washington, DC. Form M-249. November 1*, 1984.

Interagency Task Force on Adoption: *America's Waiting Children*. The task force's report #711AB to President Reagan was published May 1988.

Jenista, JA: AIDS and Internationally Adopted Children. *OURS*, pp. 14-15, July-Aug. 1987.

Jenista, JA: Update AIDS. *OURS*, pp. 28-29, Nov.-Dec. 1987.

Johnston PI: *An Adoptor's Advocate*. Perspectives Press, Fort Wayne, IN, 1984.

Kadushin A: *Child Welfare Services*. (Third Edition) Macmillan Publishing Company, Inc. NY, 1980.

Koop CE: Exerpts from Keynote Address, pp. 3-5 in *Report of the Surgeon General's Workshop on Children with HIV Infection and Their Families*. DHHS Pub. No. HRS-D-MC-87-1. April 6th-9th, 1987.

Kraft, AD, Palombo J, Woods PK, Mitchell D, and Schmidt: Some Theoretical Considerations on Confidential Adoption, Part I: The Birth Mother. *Child and Adolescent Social Work*, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 13-21, Spring 1985.

Kraft, AD, Palombo J, Mitchell DL, Woods PK, and Schmidt AW: Some Theoretical Considerations on Confidential Adoptions, Part II: The Adoptive Parent. *Child and Adolescent Social Work*, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 69-82, Summer 1985.

Kraft, AD, Palombo J, Mitchell DL, Woods PK, Schmidt AW, and Tucker NG: Some Theoretical Considerations on Confidential Adoptions, Part III: The Adoptive Child. *Child and Adolescent Social Work*, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 139-153, Fall 1985.

Kraft, AD, Palombo J, Mitchell DL, Woods PK, Schmidt AW, and Tucker NG: Some Theoretical Considerations on Confidential Adoptions, Part IV: Countertransference. *Child and Adolescent Social Work*, Vol. 3, No. 1, pp. 3-14, Spring 1986.

Krementz J: *How It Feels to be Adopted*. Knopf, NY 1988.

Ladner J: *Mixed Families: Adopting Across Racial Boundaries*. Doubleday, Garden City, NJ, 1977.

Landers RK: Independent Adoptions. *Congressional Quarterly's Editorial Research Reports*, Vol. 2, No. 22, pp. 646-655, Dec. 11, 1987.

LDS Social Services: *Policy and Procedure - AIDS Testing Bulletin*. October 1987.

Marquis KS and Detweiler RA: Does Adopted Mean Different? An Attributional Analysis. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. Vol. 48, No. 4, pp. 1054-1066, 1985.

Martin CD: Beating the Adoption Game. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, NY. 1988.

McRoy R, Zurcher L, and Anderson R: Self-esteem and Racial Identity in Transracial and Inracial Adoptees. Social Work, Vol. 27, No. 6, pp. 522-526, 1982.

McRoy R and Zurcher L: Transracial and Inracial Adoptees. Charles C. Thomas Publishers, Springfield, IL, 1983.

McHugh E: Karen's Sister. Greenwillow Press, 1988.

McLaughlin SD, Manninen DL, and Winges LD: Do Adolescents Who Relinquish Their Children Fare Better or Worse Than Those Who Raise Them? Family Planning Perspectives. Vol. 20, No. 1, pp. 25-32, Jan./Feb. 1988.

Meezan W, Katz S, and Russo EM: Adoptions Without Agencies: A Study of Independent Adoptions. p. 97, Child Welfare League of America, Inc., 1978.

MEMO: State Suing Adoptive Parents Lose Round One, Vow to Fight on. Vol. IX, No. 23, Nov. 24, 1988. Published by NCFA.

MEMO: Father's Rights Cases: AIDS-Positive Father Wins Back Visitation... Putative Father Who Ignores Mother During Pregnancy Still Must Consent to Adoption. Vol. IX, No. 13, July 7, 1988. Published by NCFA.

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: Education and Foster Care of Children Infected with Human T-Lymphotropic Virus Type III/Lymphadenopathy -Associated Virus. Vol. 34, No. 34, pp. 517-521, August 30, 1985.

Mosher WD and Pratt WF: Fecundity, Infertility, and Reproductive Health in the United States, 1982. Vital and Health Statistics. Series 23, No. 14. DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 87-1990. National Center for Health Statistics. May 1987.

Mosher WD: Infertility: Why Business is Booming, American Demographics. pp. 42-43, July 1987.

Mosher WD: Fecundity and Infertility in the United States. American Journal of Public Health. Vol. 78, No. 2, pp. 181-182, Feb. 1988.

Murray DL, Lynch M, and Doughty A: Results of Screening Adopted Korean Children for HBsAg. American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 78, No. 7, pp. 855-856, July 1988.

National Adoption Center: Who Adopts Special Needs Children. 1218 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA, no date.

National Adoption Reports: Experts Meet in Vienna to Discuss New U.N. Declaration on Adoption. Sept.-Dec., 1987. Published by NCFA.

National Adoption Reports: Experts Debate "Adopted Child Syndrome" at A.A.C. Vol. VIII, No. 3, May-June 1987, pp. 1-5. Published by NCFA.

National Adoption Reports: White House Adoption Task Force Completes Report. Vol. III, Nos. 5 and 6, pages 1, 2, 9, 10, September-December, 1987. Published by NCFA.

National Adoption Reports: Inside the World of Private Adoption. Vol. VII, No. 4, July-Aug. 1986 pages 1 and 5. Published by NCFA.

National Adoption Reports: "Corporate Support For Adoption Grows", p. 2, May-June 1986. Published by NCFA.

National Adoption Reports: "Survey Shows Average Collected Agency Fee Now $7,731". p. 5, March-April 1987 issue. Published by NCFA.

NCHS: Advance Report of Final Divorce Statistics, 1984. Monthly Vital Statistics Report. Vol. 35(6), Supplement. September 25, 1986.

NCHS: Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths for 1987. Monthly Vital Statistics Report. Vol. 36 (12). March 21, 1988.

NCHS: Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1987. Monthly Vital Statistics Report. Vol. 37(3), Supplement. July 12, 1988.

NCHS: Vital Statistics of the United States, 1984. Volume I. Natality. DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 88-1100, 1988.

National Committee For Adoption: The Use of Advertising in Outreach to Potential Clients: An Overview For Pregnancy Counseling and Maternity Homes. Released 10/3/84.

National Committee For Adoption: Adoption Factbook: United States Data, Issues, Regulations and Resources. Washington, D.C. November 1985.

National Committee For Adoption: Testimony of William L. Pierce before the Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Hazardous Materials on the Issue of "Surrogate Parenting, Oct. 15, 1987.

National Research Council: Risking the Future: Adolescent Sexuality, Pregnancy, and Childbearing. National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC, 1987.

New York Times: 1/13/88 reported in MEMO by NCFA, Vol. IX, No. 3, Feb. 3, 1988.

Office of Inspector General: Minority Adoptions. Office of Analysis and Inspections, Department of Health and Human Services, December 1987.

Office of Technology Assessment: Infertility: Medical and Social Choices. OTA-BA-358, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, May 1988.

Pamuk ER and Mosher WD: Health Aspects of Pregnancy and Childbirth. Vital and Health Statistics. Series 23, No. 16. DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 89-1992. National Center for Health Statistics. December 1988.

Pierce WL: Procedures and Practices in "Open Adoption". MEMO, December 5, 1984.

Pierce WL: The Government Should Ban Surrogate Parenting. April 16, 1987.

Pierce WL: Survey of State Activity Regarding Surrogate Motherhood. Family Law Reporter. Jan. 29, 1985.

Pierce WL: Adoption Alternatives. Rocky Mountain Business Journal. August 18, 1986.

Pierce WL: Social Services Professionals: Traffic Cops at the Intersection of Law and Medicine. Presented to the 1986 annual meeting of the American Society of Law and Medicine, Cambridge, Mass., Oct. 18, 1986.

Pierce WL: An Analysis of Legislative Trends in Current State Surrogacy Proposals. Presented to the 1986 annual meeting of the American Bar Association, August 1986.

Pierce WL: The "Surrogate Parenting" Issue and NCFA's Activities, National Adoption Reports, Vol. VIII, No. L, pp 1 and 5, Jan.-Feb., 1987.

Plumez JH: Successful Adoption. Harmony Books, NY, 1987.

Powell-Griner E: Induced Terminations of Pregnancy: Reporting States, 1984. Monthly Vital Statistics Report. Vol. 36, No. 5, Supplement (2), Sept. 8, 1987.

Powledge F: So You're Adopted: A Book About the Experience of Being Adopted. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1988.

Project Share: The Adoption Option: A Guidebook for Pregnancy Counselors. Available from Project Share, P.O. Box 2309, Rockville, MD 20852, 1986.

Riche MF: The Adoption Story, American Demographics. March, pp. 42-45, 1986.

Rosenberg J: State Legislative Action on Access to Adoption Records. Sharing. Vol. 9, No. 3, p. 4, Nov. 1986.

Rosenberg J: 1988 Survey of State Laws on Access to Adoption Records. Family Law Reporter. Vol. 14, No. 40, pp. 3017-3027, August 16, 1988.

Rosenberg J and Pierce WL: Adoption Practice Today: The Current Judicial Boundaries. Family Law Reporter. Vol. 13, No. 42, pp. 3025-3030, September 1, 1987.

Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families: Continuing Crisis in Foster Care: Issues and Problems. U.S. GPO, Washington, D.C. #75-048, April 22, 1987.

Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families: A Generation in Jeopardy: Children and AIDS. U.S. House of Representatives, One Hundredth Congress, First Session, December 14, 1987.

Simon RJ and Altstein H: Transracial Adoption. Wiley, NY, NY, 1977.

Simon RJ and Altstein H: Transracial Adoption: A Followup. Lexington Books, Lexington, MA, 1981.

Simon RJ and Altstein H: Transracial Adoptees and Their Families: A Study of Identity and Commitment. Praeger, NY, 1987.

Smith J and Miroff FI: You're Our Child: The Adoption Experience. Madison Books, NY, 1987.

Smith LM: Babies from Abroad. American Demographics. Vol. 10. No. 3, pp. 38-41, 56: March 1988.

Sobol HL: We Don't Look Like Our Mom and Dad. Coward-McCann, 1988.

Spence-Chapin: Adoption Counseling Team. Spence-Chapin. Services to Families and Children, 6 East 94th Street, NY, Summer 1987.

Spencer M: Understanding Adoption as a Family Building Option. Children's Home Society of Minnesota. 2230 Como Avenue. St. Paul, MN 55108. 1982.

Spencer ME: Post-Legal Adoption Services: A Lifelong Commitment pp. 155-167 in Infertility and Adoption: A Guide for Social Work Practice. The Haworth Press, 1988.

Tooker RM: Policies Regarding Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Kent County Health Department regulations adopted from the Connecticut State Health Department, December 1984.

Tremitiere BT: Disruption: A Break in Commitment. Paper presented at the Ninth North American Council on Adoptable Children Conference in Chicago. 1984.

Triseliotis J: In Search of Origins: The Experience of Adopted People. Routledge and Kegan Paul, Ltd., London, 1973.

Unmarried Parents Today: Supreme Court Rules that AFLA Does Not Violate Constitution. Vol. VII, Bulletin #3, July 7, 1988. Published by NCFA.

Unmarried Parents Today: National Survey on Services to Pregnant Teens and Women. Vol. VII, Bulletin #4, September 30, 1988. Published by NCFA.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Study Findings - Study of National Incidence and Prevalence of Child Abuse and Neglect, 1988. Produced under contract #105-85--1702. Washington, D.C., 1988.

Ventura SJ: Births of Hispanic Parentage, 1985. Monthly Vital Statistics Report. Vol. 36, No. 11, Suplement. February 26, 1988.

Ventura SJ, Taffel SM, and Mosher WD: Estimates of Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates for the United States, 1976-85. *American Journal of Public Health.* Vol. 78, No. 5, pp. 506-511, May 1988.

Washington Post: Making a Short Life A Little Sweeter With Grandma's House, AIDS Babies Don't Have to Languish in a Hospital. 5/12/88.

Weil RH: International Migrations: The Quest Migration *International Migration Review.* Vol. XVIII, No 2, pp. 276-293, nd.

WESTAT INC.: *National Study of Social Services of Children and Their Families.* Rockville, MD, 1978.

WESTAT, INC.: *Adoption Services For Waiting Minority and Nonminority Children.* Rockville, MD 1986.

Wilkinson HSP: *Birth is More Than Once: The Inner World of Adopted Korean Children.* Sunrise Ventures, Bloomfield Hills, MI, 1985.

Wilson BF: Remarriages and Subsequent Divorces. *Vital and Health Statistics.* Series 21, No. 45. DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 89-1923. National Center for Health Statistics, January 1989.

Witmer HC, Herzog E, Weinstein EA, Sullivan ME: *Independent Adoptions.* Russell Sage Foundation, New York, 1963.

Subject Matter Index

abortion (also see statistics)
  adoption vs., 1, 4, 12-13, 66-68, 96-98, 127
Administration for Children, Youth and Families
  regional offices, 8, 221
"adopted child syndrome", 205-206
adopters, prospective
  black couples as, 176-178, 233
  characteristics of, 160-162
  networking of, 223-229
  questions asked of (see home study)
  ratio of available babies to, 13, 157-159
  recruitment of, 3, 20-37, 121-122
  single, 232
  warnings to, 167-168, 172, 175
adoptees
  and AIDS, 6, 130-131
  characteristics of, 205-206
  foster care and, 184-194
  psychological problems of, 195-198, 205-206
Adoption Option Index, 4, 66-68, 98
adoption
  benefits for children, 203-204
  benefits offered by business firms, 8, 213-214
  black, 176-178, 233-234
  confidential, 20-37, 45-55, 107-110, 111-115, 140-141,
  controversial methods of, 121-122
  counseling, 6, 143-147, 169-171
  demand for, 13, 157-159
  disruption, dissolution, 7, 169, 172, 195-198
  exchanges, 222
  experimental (see adoption, open)
  foreign, 5, 38-42, 59-61, 163-168, 235, 236
  Hispanic, 7, 179-180, 234
  history, 2, 18-19, 56-58
  identified, 3, 27-37
  independent, 3, 5, 7, 20-34, 169-175
  Indian, 7, 181-183, 234
  Korean, 163-166,
  laws governing (see laws)
  myths about, 205-206
  open, 5, 20-34, 45-55, 107-115, 140-141
bi-racial, 123-126
black, 123-126
  organizations, 215-237
  private, 3, 7, 172-175
  public agency, 3, 7, 172-175
  registry, 107-110
  related, 3, 59 (also see statistics)
  rewards of, 148-149
  statistics (see statistics)
  support groups, 223-229
  transracial, 5, 123-126, 134-135, 176-178, 232-233
  interstate, 20-34
  "wrongful", 6, 132-133
adoption agencies (also see support groups, and organizations)
  advertising by, 122
  applications to, 167-168
  homestudy (see homestudy)
  outreach programs of, (see advertisements)
  recruitment by, 176-178
  transracial matches by, 123-126
advertisements, 3, 5, 20-37, 121-122
AIDS, 6, 130-131, 184
availability (also see demand for children)
  of black children, 176-178
  of Hispanic children, 179-180
  of Indian children, 181-183
Baby M, 5, 116
bibliography, 257-264
birthmothers, 13
  characteristics of, 148-149, 180
  contact by adoptees, 107-115, 237
  contact with adopters, 107-115, 237
  counseling for, 143-147, 169-171
  risks in independent adoptions, 169-171
  state regulations concerning, 20-37
  teenage, 6, 127, 129
business firms, 213-214
child abuse, 7, 184-198
children
  adoption revealed to, 199-202
  American Indian, 181-183

  - characteristics of adopted, 203-204
  - criminality and, 205-206
  - developmental stages of, 113
  - foster care of, 184-194
  - handicapped (see special needs)
  - Hispanic, 179-180
  - Korean, 163-165 (also see statistics)
  - parents' expectations of, 113
  - post-adoption development of, 203-204
  - special needs, 184-194, 221
  - wanted for adoption, 157-159
- demand for children, 157-159, 176-178
- do's and don'ts, 167-168
- families, adoptive
  - support groups, 223-229
  - Family Builders, 235
- fathers
  - rights of, 6, 14, 20-37, 138-140, 150-151, 172
- fecundity, 152-159
- fees, 137-138, 167, 172, 207-208
- foreign adoptions (see adoption, foreign and statistics)
- foster care, 184-194
  - adoption of children in, 126
  - Indian children in, 182-183
  - institutions, 237
  - statistics on, 126
- handicaps (see special needs)
- history, 18-19, 163
- homes
  - maternity, 14
- homestudy
  - lack of in independent adoptions, 169-175
  - purposes of, 161-162
  - state regulations for, 3, 20-34
- illegitimacy, 6, 12-14, 86-87, 148-149
- Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), 3, 38-43
- Immigration of Adopted and Prospective Adoptive Children, The, 38-39
- independent adoptions, 4, 20-34
- Indian Child Welfare Act, 181-183
- infertile couples, 2, 6, 157-159, 160
- infertility
  - organizations, 232
  - tests for and treatment of, 152-156
- insurance benefits, 8, 209-212
- language, positive and negative, 145
- laws, 3, 6, 45-55, 73-79, 116-120, 125, 132, 136-142, 150-151, 181-185, 209-212
- love
  - demonstrations of, 7, 199-202
- maternity homes, 14, 145-146
- model law, 3, 44
- mothers, unmarried
  - adoptions as choice for, 148-149
- myth of the adopted child syndrome, 205-206
- National Committee For Adoption
  - Adoption Defense Fund, 17
  - Adoption Option Index, 66-69, 98
  - goals, 10-11
  - membership agencies, 8, 215-218
  - promotion of the "adoption option", 15-17
  - purpose of, 2, 10-11, 15-17
  - 1982 survey, 59-60
  - 1986 survey, 59-60, 238-256
- organizations
  - adoption exchanges, 222
  - children, youth, and family, 221
  - exchange and photolisting, 230-231
  - Family Builders, 235
  - foreign, 235-236
  - health, 221
  - Hispanic, 234
  - Indian, 234
  - infertility, 232
  - intercultural and interracial, 232-233
  - national, 221
  - NCFA membership, 215-218
  - search groups, 237
  - single parents, 232
  - special needs, 234
  - specialists in states, 219-220
  - support groups, 223-230
- parents, biological
  - adoptive parents vs., 111-115

  - characteristics of, 148-149
  - rights of, 20-37, 150-151
  - search of children for, 107-110
- photolisting books, 8, 230-231
- post-adoption services, 6, 134-136
- pre-adoption counseling, 6, 143-147
- regulations (see laws)
- registry, 45-55
- religion, 129, 162
- relinquishment, 20-37
- reproductive technology, 6, 152-156
- risk, 127-128, 169-175
- search, 107-110, 134-136
  - groups, 3, 237
  - individual, 5, 109-110, 200-202
  - laws, 45-55
- social services, 173-175
- social workers
  - counseling by, 134-136, 143-147
  - meetings with, 111-115
  - by state, 219-220
- special needs, 4, 92-93, 184-194, 221, 234 (also see statistics)
- state
  - adoption specialists, 8, 219-220
- statistics, 60-106
  - abortion, 96-98
  - agency and individual, 80-85, 100
  - birth, 86-87, 96-98, 180
  - disruption and dissolution, 195-198
  - foreign, 71, 80-81, 88-89, 94, 101-106, 163-166
  - foster care, 182-194
  - history of, ii, 56-58
  - national, ii-iii, 3-5
  - methodology for, 238-256
  - special needs, 80-81, 92-95
  - state, 3-5, 80-98, 104-106
  - trends, 4, 90-93, 99-106
- sterility, 157-159
- subsidies, 185, 194
- support groups (see organizations)
- surrogate parenting, 116-120
- survey, 238-256
- tax benefits, 8, 209-212
- teenagers, 6, 127-129
- trends
  - in adoption, 5, 60, 62, 63, 65, 69-72, 92, 99, 100-106
  - social, 12-14, 18-19
- waiting time, 20-37, 184-194
- welfare dependency, 2, 148-149
- "wrongful" adoption 131-132, 141-142

Order form for publications and materials avaiable through the NFCA bookstore.

Item numbers are listed after the description of each book in the body of the brochure.

Please send me the books or provide me with the materials indicated below.

Quantity	Item	Number	Total Price
	1001	$10.95	
	1002	1.95	
	1003	2.00	
	1004	0.80	
	1005	6.95	
	1006	12.95	
	1007	3.00	
	1008	14.95	
	1009	9.95	
	1010	10.00	
	1011	11.95	
	1012	9.95	
	1013	2.40	
	1014	3.95	
	1015	4.00	
	1016	4.95	
	1017	0.50	
	1018	0.75	
	1019	6.95	
	1020	5.95	
	1021	8.95	
	1022	10.00	
	1023	7.95	
	1024	4.50	
	1025	1.75	
	1026	1.75	
	1027	FREE	
	1028	FREE	
	1029	18.00	

Quantity	Item	Number	Total Price
	1030	0.25	
		☐ complete poster	
		☐ imprint space	
	1031	0.15	
	1032	0.15	
	1033	5.00	
	1034	6.20	
	1035	2.00	
	1036	17.50	
	1037	17.95	
	1038	23.95	
	1039	FREE	2.00
	1040	0.00	
	1041	5.00	
	1042	5.00	
	1043	5.00	
	1044	5.00	
	1045	2.00	
	1046	3.95	
	1047	3.25	
	1048	2.50	
	1049	3.25	
	1050	3.25	
	1051	6.00	
	1052	2.00	
	1053	0.50	
	1054	30.00	
	1055	5.00	
	1056	2.25	
	1057	2.25	

Quantity	Item	Number	Total Price
	1058	5.00	
	1059	5.00	
	1060	5.00	
	1061	10.00	
	1062	5.95	
	1063	9.95	
	1064	12.95	
	1065	6.95	
	1066	95.00	
	1067	4.95	
	1068	18.95	
	1069	1.00	
	1070	6.00	
	1071	6.00	
	1072	6.00	
	1073	6.00	
	1074	6.00	
	1075	6.00	
	1076	10.00	
	1077	20.80	
	1078	10.95	
	1079	13.95	
	1080	5.00	
	1081	9.95	
	1082	16.95	
	1083	6.95	
	1084	5.00	
	1085	7.00	
	1086	95.00	

National Commitee for Adoption
1930 Seventeenth Street, NW Washington, DC 20009-6207
202-328-1200

Total Price ______
Add 20% postage and handling ______
Total Amount Due ______

Ship To: Name: ______
Address: ______
City: ______ State: ______ ZIP: ______

☐ Charge to my Choice Card # ______ Exp. Date: ______
☐ Charge to my Master Card # ______ Exp. Date: ______
☐ Charge to my Visa # ______ Exp. Date: ______
☐ Charge to my American Express # ______ Exp. Date: ______

Authorized Signature ______

For Prospective Adoptive Parents

SUCCESSFUL ADOPTION: A GUIDE TO FINDING A CHILD AND RAISING A FAMILY, Plumez, $10.95.

This book is the best and most comprehensive book for people considering adoption. Must reading, as it covers many of the questions and issues in adoption today.
1001.

UNDERSTANDING ADOPTION AS A FAMILY-BUILDING OPTION, Spencer, $1.95.

This booklet is very useful because it combines discussion of the adoptive family in the context of human society with consideration of some of the language used to describe adoption.
1002.

NCFA PAMPHLETS ON ADOPTION.

Four of our own items, "Adoption Today," "So You're Interested in Adopting a Child," "Special Needs Adoption," and "Children From Other Lands," offer a brief look at adoption. All four, $2.00.
1003.

AN ADOPTOR'S ADVOCATE, Johnston, $6.95.

This paperback deals with infertility and with the adoption process from the adoptor's point of view. Good for agencies to read, too.
1005.

THE POSSIBILITY HANDBOOK: ADOPTIVE PARENTS' GUIDE TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES, Harrington, 1986, $3.00.

This book was published by the Adoption Unit of the MN Dept. of Human Services for families planning to adopt a child with a "special need." Helpful information on the adoption process as well as resources to assist families and children. While resources are primarily in Minnesota, families may find it useful for identifying comparable services in their own state.
1007.

Special Interests — Single Parent Adoptions

SINGLE PARENTING: A WILDERNESS JOURNEY, Barnes, $5.95.

Offers practical guidance to single parenting using biblical references on issues such as communication, finances, discipline, self esteem, sex-education and value building.
1062.

SINGLE PARENT ADOPTIONS: AN ISSUE OF DIFFICULTY AND IMPORT FOR ADOPTION AGENCIES, Rosenberg, unpublished paper presented at NACAC Conference, Orlando, FL, 8/8/87, $6.00.

An in-depth review of current research on single parent families and adoption by single persons, including developing research on unique and differing ways that mothers and fathers parent babies. Includes policy and practice recommendations.
1073.

Discussing Adoption With Children

YOU'RE OUR CHILD: THE ADOPTION EXPERIENCE, Smith & Miroff, $9.95.

This book deals mostly with the questions of those who've adopted a healthy infant, including the question of "how to tell the child he's adopted" and other issues. A book every couple should read before they decide to explore adoption.
1009.

WHY WAS I ADOPTED?, Livingston, $10.00.

This is the standard picture book for young children on the questions about adoption. Includes illustrations of transracial and single-parent adoptions. Buy before or after you adopt.
1010.

HOW IT FEELS TO BE ADOPTED, Krementz, $11.95.

An excellent book, featuring interviews with and pictures of adolescents who were adopted, that can serve many purposes. A book by teens, it is excellent for the young adult to read alone.
1011.

SO YOU'RE ADOPTED, Powledge, $9.95.

This book is written about and for teens, and it's a balanced discussion of what adoption means to various people. Puts adoption, as one of life's experiences, into context. It doesn't patronize.
1012.

IT'S FUN TO BE ME, **Long and Smulcer, $2.40.**

A coloring book to help parents explain adoption to their children. Positive, fun, low-key!
1013.

SUSAN AND GORDON ADOPT A BABY, **Freudberg & Geiss, $3.95.**

A wonderful book using the Sesame Street characters to explain how Miles joins Susan's and Gordon's family through adoption.
1014.

THE MULBERRY BIRD: STORY OF AN ADOPTION, **Brodzinsky, $9.95.**

A tender story for ages 5 to 10 which tells of the difficult decisions a birthmother makes out of love for her baby. Provides a gentle way to help children talk about this often secret part of their thoughts.
1063.

REAL FOR SURE SISTER, **Angel, $12.95.**

Story of family love for 8 to 11 year olds. Discusses the many concerns children have when a new sibling joins the family — and the special ones when the family is formed through adoption.
1064.

ADOPTION IS FOR ALWAYS, **Girard, $10.95.**

A story of the emotions and confusion a little girl experiences at learning that she was adopted and the process she goes through to come to a positive understanding of her special relationship with her mother and her father.
1078.

OUR BABY: A BIRTH AND ADOPTION STORY, **Koch, $9.95.**

An introduction to sex education for children aged 3 to 7 includes the story of adoption. This 28 page book offers the opportunity for providing the details of a particular child's arrival in a family with its fill-in-the-blank format.
1081.

FILLING IN THE BLANKS: A GUIDED LOOK AT GROWING UP ADOPTED, **Gabel, $16.95.**

A workbook which helps 10 to 14 year olds put together the pieces of their unique life story. Useful for preadoptive and new adoptive parents as a guide for the information they should request from their adoption intermediary.
1082.

Infertility

UNDERSTANDING: A GUIDE TO IMPAIRED FERTILITY FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS, **Johnston, $4.00.**

A sensitive, 28-page booklet that helps the families and friends of infertile couples to understand the unique life crisis of infertility.
1015.

THE INFERTILE COUPLE, **Spring, $6.95.**

Provides the reader with an empathic understanding of what infertile couples go through as they struggle with their infertility and the choices open to them. Discusses the importance to the couple of a solid support network.
1083.

INFERTILITY: A GUIDE FOR THE CHILDLESS COUPLE, **Menning, $4.95.**

The basic book on the subject by the founder of RESOLVE, a national self-help group working on infertility issues.
1016.

NCFA PAMPHLET.

"Infertility, Childlessness and You," features a brief discussion of some issues and concerns people have, is $0.50.
1017.

"The Psychological Dimensions of Infertility," Kraft et al, $0.75.
This reprint from the American Journal of Orthopsychiatry examines the reactions of couples applying to an adoption agency and theorizes that infertility should be resolved to improve chances of successful adoptive parenting.
1018

DEAR GOD, WHY CAN'T WE HAVE A BABY?, **John and Sylvia Regenmorter and Joe S. McIlhaney, M.D., $6.95.**

Written by a pastor, his wife and a Christian ob/gyn, this is a sensitive, comprehensive discussion of the issues involved in infertility including a chapter on what constitutes an infertility work-up, alternatives available to infertile couples and ethical issues raised by those choices.
1065.

THE MIRACLE SEEKERS, Mason, $14.95.

An anthology of short stories about infertile couples of different geographic, cultural, racial, and religious backgrounds. The 21 stories explore family relations, dealing with doctors and therapists, and alternatives open to infertile couples.
1008.

Helps for Raising Your Child

THE WONDERFUL WAY THAT BABIES ARE MADE, Christenson, $6.95.

This book is especially written to "grow" with your child as it explains the miracle of human reproduction from a Christian perspective. Has a beautiful description of adoption.
1019.

LOVE, DAD, Connolly, $5.95

Love, Dad is a heartwarming, inspiring collection of notes and cartoons written by a father to his sons each morning before he left for work and they awoke. Patrick Connolly has found a beautiful way to provide guidance and express his love to his children.
1020.

Special Intersts — Adopting Older Children

ADOPTING THE OLDER CHILD, Jewett, $8.95.

An excellent book by an experienced counselor, herself the adoptive parent of older children.
1021.

Special Interests — Adopting Children With Special Needs

19 STEPS UP THE MOUNTAIN: THE STORY OF THE DEBOLT FAMILY, Blank, $10.00.

A heartwarming story of the building of the DeBolt family — 6 biological and 14 adopted children with various cultural backgrounds and disabilities — is shared with love and humor as the family rises to meet each new challenge.
1022.

Special Interests — Adopting Children of Other Races and Cultures

BIRTH IS MORE THAN ONCE, Wilkinson, $7.95.

This book is the result of observations of Korean children adopted by American families. It provides valuable insights for practitioners and adoptive families about what it means to be adopted internationally.
1023.

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION, Taylor, revised by Laning, $4.50.

Contributions by experienced parents discussing the challenge of adopting a foreign child of different heritage, initial adjustment, etc. Full of information.
1024.

THE IMMIGRATION OF ADOPTED AND PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE CHILDREN, Immigration and Naturalization Service, $1.75.

This is the basic primer for anyone thinking about adopting a child from outside the U.S., invaluable to prospective adoptive parents and agencies alike.
1025.

BEWARE OF SHORTCUTS IN FOREIGN ADOPTIONS, Gaw, $1.75.

This 24-page reprint provides prospective adoptive parents with statistics on the number of adoptions from various countries and a very helpful analysis of the adoption process in Inter American adoptions.
1026.

BEING ADOPTED, Rosenberg, $13.95.

A story of three children adopted by families with different racial and cultural roots. Story and actual photos reveal their doubts, fears, satisfactions and triumphs — feelings and experiences brought about by adoption.
1079.

UNDERSTANDING MY CHILD'S KOREAN ORIGINS, Han, $5.00.

A very helpful book for parents who adopt a child from Korea to ease the transition into American life and maintain the child's heritage. Han provides a historical and cultural view of Korea — its customs, social structures, family life, etc.
1084.

LET'S VISIT KOREA, Elsberry, $7.00.

This pictoral view of the people and places of Korea was written by a mother to help her daughters understand the country of their birth. It provides children with an appreciation of their rich heritage as well as a sense of day to day life in Korea.
1085.

TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION: A POINT OF REFLECTION?, Altstein and Rosenberg, unpublished paper presented at the Third National Conference on Intercultural Families, Washington, DC, 10/29/86, $6.00.

A comprehensive examination of the controversial issue of transracial adoption. The authors review the scientific research as well as the public policy and judicial issues that frame this discussion.
1074.

Free Items

NCFA's ANNUAL REPORT.

Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Put "Annual Report" on it.
1027.

NCFA's DIRECTORY OF MEMBER AGENCIES.

Send a self-addressed stamped envelope. Put "Member Agencies" on it.
1028.

NCFA Materials For Outreach

NCFA publishes or makes available a variety of materials that are designed to help tell potential maternity clients about an agency's services. These materials include: a Directory of Resources, miniposters and brochures designed for free distribution.

DIRECTORY OF RESOURCES 1985-86, $18.00.

NCFA's Second Edition contains more than 500 listings of maternity and adoption agencies across the country, including details on all NCFA members. Useful for improved coordination among the various programs and services related to adoption and counseling of unwed mothers. Each listing has been specifically confirmed by groups wishing to be contacted.
1029.

MINI-POSTERS, $0.25 each, 10 minimum order.

NCFA's popular 8-1/2 " x 11" poster advertises the National Adoption Hotline as well as sends a positive message about adoption to those with untimely or troubled pregnancies. The poster features an attractive baby and carries the message "I Know My Baby Will Be Part of a Loving Family Because I'm Choosing Adoption." Available in two formats. One format has space for imprint of a local agency or resource. The other features the NCFA Hotline number. Be sure and stipulate which format you prefer: complete poster or poster with imprint space.
1030.

BROCHURES, $0.15 each, 20 minimum each order.

NCFA has distributed thousands of these bright, attractive, triple fold brochures.

THE ADOPTION OPTION: IS IT FOR YOU

Purple and pink, it promotes adoption as a positive option, suitable for widespread free distribution.
1031.

IF PARENTS WERE HIRED

is a two-color flyer which focuses on teens' capability to be single parents. Both have space for local imprint.
1032.

General Interest — Adoption

ARE YOU READY TO MAKE A FOREVER DECISION?: CHILDREN ARE FOREVER, The NETWORK, $5.00.

A colorful poster illustrating the many needs of children and the needs and desires of young women.
1033.

HOTLINE TRAINING MANUAL, $6.20.

This 62-page manual was developed by NCFA for use in training hotline volunteers. It includes sections on listening and communication skills, guidelines for handling hotline calls, and specific information about adoption topics. Designed to be sensitive to attitudes of diverse callers.
1034.

Agency Services

MODEL STATEMENT ON POST-LEGAL ADOPTION SERVICES, Specially Convened North American Post-Legal Adoption Committee, June 1984. $2.00.

This Model Statement provides a rationale for the provision of post-legal adoption services and recommendations of services to be provided, to whom, by whom and methodologies. Useful guidelines for agencies interested in improving their services.
1035.

OUR CHILD: PREPARATION FOR PARENTING IN ADOPTION — INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE, Hallenbeck, $18.95.

La Maze classes for adopting couples! A complete guide for setting up a 4-week parent preparation course for prospective adoptive parents. Includes information on budgeting, setting-up and publicizing program, forms, and information on materials.
1068.

AIDS INFORMATION PAPER FOR USE BY ADOPTION AND MATERNITY SERVICE AGENCIES, Seader, unpublished, $6.00.

A summary of available information on HIV infection, particularly as it pertains to pregnant women and their offspring. Lists issues which agencies should consider when developing policies regarding HIV infection for clients and employees.
1072.

ADOPTION FACTBOOK, $20.80.

First major all inclusive resource book since 1975 to gather state data on adoptions, intercountry statistics, and adoption regulations. Great resource for the search for a child to adopt: lists of agencies; state adoption contacts; adoption support groups. 172 pages. Published by NCFA in 1985.
1004.

ADOPTION FACTBOOK II, $20.80.

The newest edition of NCFA's perennial best seller with updated statistics, updated materials and new information will be released Spring of 1989. The most comprehensive resource on adoption and related issues in the field to date.
1077.

ADOPTION LAW AND PRACTICE, Hollinger, ed., $95.00.

A must book for every agency and individual involved in the practice of adoption. This comprehensive national treatment of the law includes analyses of state statutes, placement issues, consents, indepth practice commentary, discussions on the different types of adoption and much more.
1066.

FOR THE LOVE OF A CHILD, Piester, $17.50.

This is the story of the Edna Gladney Center: of the bond between children, those who give them life and those who give them a loving home — and of the dedicated caseworkers along the way. Ruby Lee Piester, whose commitment to the agency exceeds 25 years, shares the stories of those who passed through using their own words.
1036.

AMERICA'S WAITING CHILDREN, A REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT FROM THE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON ADOPTION.

The White House Task Force examined state and federal legislation and policy to determine barriers to adoption and offered suggestions to remove those barriers. FREE.
1039.

NCFA PRESS CLIPS — JANUARY - DECEMBER, 1986, $10.00.

Copies of articles from newspapers and magazines mentioning NCFA on a variety of adoption related topics.
1040.

MEDIA GUIDELINES ON ADOPTION LANGUAGE, $1.00.

Brochure developed by the Catholic Adoptive Parents Association, Inc. of New York to assist persons who are speaking to the media on behalf of adoption. Provides some general adoption facts as well as positive terminology which promotes adoption.
1069.

PERSPECTIVES ON A GRAFTED TREE, Johnston, $12.95.

A compilation of poems written for and by persons touched by adoption.
1006.

WHEN FRIENDS ASK ABOUT ADOPTION: QUESTION AND ANSWER GUIDE FOR NON-ADOPTIVE PARENTS AND OTHER CARING ADULTS, Bothun, $4.95.

Commonly asked questions about adoption and positive responses are compiled in this little book that adoptive parents can share with friends and family. The format allows each family to write in their own preferred response in their effort to educate others about what adoption has meant for them and their children.
1067.

ADOPTION PRACTICE TODAY: THE CURRENT JUDICIAL BOUNDARIES, Rosenberg & Pierce, $2.25,

This article published in The Family Law Reporter, September 1987, examines the impact that recent judicial decisions have had on the practice of adoption.
1056.

INDEPENDENT ADOPTIONS, Landers, $5.00.

This issue of the Congressional Quarterly's Editorial Research Reports addresses some of the trends, risks, and perceived benefits of independent adoption.
1058.

ISSUES IN CHILD ADOPTION, Leepson, Editorial Research Reports, $5.00.

This issue addresses many of the issues in adoption today including: the overwhelming demand for children, children with "special needs," and the sealed records controversy.
1059.

ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN, Reagan, $17.95.

Michael Reagan's autobiography shares an atypical story of adoption — adopted by movie star parents who later divorce, sexually abused by a camp counselor, sent to boarding schools from first grade, etc.
1037.

ADOPTION IN WORLDWIDE PERSPECTIVE, Hoksbergen, $23.95.

A review of programs, policies and legislation in 14 countries.
1038.

SURROGACY PACKET, $10.00.

A compilation of articles and papers on the issue of surrogacy including testimony and speeches by William Pierce before the American Bar Association, American Society of Law and Medicine, etc.
1076.

NCFA Amicus Curiae Briefs

IN THE MATTER OF BABY "M", $5.00

Surrogacy.
1041.

JONATHAN LEHR V. LORRAINE ROBERTSON, ET.AL., $5.00.

Putative father's rights.
1042.

EDWARD MCNAMARA V. COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, $5.00.

Putative father's rights.
1043.

DONALD J. KIRKPATRICK V. CHRISTIAN HOMES OF ABILENE, INC. AND THE 326TH DISTRICT COURT OF TAYLOR COUNTY, TX, $5.00.

Putative father's rights.
1080.

Teen Pregnancy and Adoption Counseling

THE ADOPTION OPTION: A GUIDEBOOK FOR PREGNANCY COUNSELORS, Project SHARE, $5.00.

This booklet is full of useful information for pregnancy counselors who are not familiar with adoption. It includes a brief history of adoption, describes the adoption process and offers an inventory to be used with every pregnant woman to assist her in making a decision about adoption or parenting.
1044.

COUNSELING THE INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCING A TROUBLED PREGNANCY, American Citizen's Concerned for Life, $2.00.

Provides information and suggests questions for pregnancy counselors to use when counseling young women about their options in a troubled pregnancy — abortion, adoption, marriage and single parenting.
1045.

ORIENTATIONS OF PREGNANCY COUNSELORS TOWARD ADOPTION, Mech, $30.

This major ground- breaking study from the University of Illinois points up new directions for all those working with pregnant clients. Publication contains entire text of Mr. Mech's findings, plus instruments. In addition, NCFA has prepared a summary and commentary, which are included. More than 300 pages, spiral-bound, off-set.
1054.

STARTING EARLY: THE ANTECEDENTS OF EARLY PREMARITAL INTERCOURSE, Moore, et.al., $5.00.

This paper is useful to anyone involved with pregnant teens. It examines the relationship between family disruption and early sexual behavior enabling the reader to consider possible effective interventions for primary and secondary prevention.
1055.

PREGNANCY COUNSELING: TRADITIONAL AND EXPERIMENTAL PRACTICES, Seader, unpublished, $6.00.

Examines experimental "open" adoption practices and their impact on a birthmother's decision-making process and resolution of the pregnancy and adoption experience.
1071.

ADOLESCENT COGNITIVE ABILITIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SEXUAL DECISION-MAKING, Franz, unpublished paper presented at Celebrate the Family Third Eastern Symposium, University Parks, PA, 3/24/87, $6.00.

Examines current sex education approaches and their predicted outcomes based on the cognitive and moral developmental stages of adolescents and preadolescents.
1075.

National Council On Illegitimacy.

Series on Unmarried Parenting and its implications for services includes:

THE DOUBLE JEOPARDY THE TRIPLE CRISIS ILLEGITIMACY TODAY, $3.95

1046

EFFECTIVE SERVICES FOR UNMARRIED PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN, $3.25

1047

UNMARRIED PARENTHOOD CLUES TO AGENCY AND COMMUNITY ACTION, $2.50

1048

ILLEGITIMACY TODAY'S REALITIES, $3.25

1049

ILLEGITIMACY CHANGING SERVICES FOR CHANGING TIMES, $3.25

1050

NCFA Model Legislation Series

MODEL ACT FOR THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, WITH SE CTION BY SECTION COMMENT AND ANALYSIS, 60 pp., $6.00.

This is the final and official version of the Model Act issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on October 8, 1981. This replaced the Draft Model State Adoption Act, which caused a storm of controversy in 1979-81 because of the emphasis on open records and other practices of a questionable professional nature.
1051.

MODEL ACT TO ESTABLISH A MUTUAL CONSENT ADOPTION REGISTRY, 16 pp., $2.00.

This model act, which was drafted by NCFA after extensive discussions and public meetings across the U.S., is the model which has been used by many states in drafting their own registry laws. The Model Act provides language not only for the establishment of a voluntary registry but also for disclosure of non-identifying information. Orders for this model also receive a free copy of NCFA's MODEL BACKGROUND INFORMATION FORM, a seven-page form which can be a model for states to consider as they mandate the provision of non-identifying information to adoptive parents and adult adopted persons.
1052.

NCFA'S MODEL BACKGROUND INFORMATION FORM, 7 pp., $0.50.

This form is prepared to be used in connection with any Mutual Consent Adoption Registry. Specifically designed to fit with NCFA's Model Registry as the means whereby non-identifying information can be transmitted.
1053.

Confidential/Open Adoption Records/Practice

1988 SURVEY OF STATE LAWS ON ACCESS TO ADOPTION RECORDS, Rosenberg, $2.25.

The August 16, 1988 issue of The Family Law Reporter featured this analysis of the issues involved with sealed records and the response that the states have made to the controversy over opening of confidential records.
1057.

THE MUTUAL CONSENT VOLUNTARY ADOPTION REGISTRY: A SOUND APPROACH TO THE SEALED RECORDS CONTROVERSY, Fay, $5.00.

This Law Review article provides a rationale for Mutual Consent Registries as the preferred means of balancing the needs and rights of all parties in the adoption circle.
1060.

SERIES OF 4 ARTICLES ON CONFIDENTIAL ADOPTION, Kraft, et.al.

From the perspective of various members of the adoption circle includes:
"Some Theoretical Considerations on Confidential Adoption, Part I: The Birth Mother",
"Some Theoretical Considerations on Confidential Adoption, Part II: The Adoptive Parent",
"Some Theoretical Considerations on Confidential Adoption, Part III: The Adopted Child",
"Some Theoretical Considerations on Confidential Adoption, Part IV: Countertransference"
Set of four articles, $10.00.
1061.

THE CASE FOR CONFIDENTIAL ADOPTION, Byrd, $6.00.

Reprint from Public Welfare, Fall 1988. Analyzes the issue of "open adoption" from the point of view of the developmental needs of all parties to an adoption plan — most particularly the child.
1070.

ADOPTION REGISTRY PACKET, $10.00.

Includes a copy of NCFA's Model Act on Mutual Consent Registries, reprint of Fay's and Rosenberg's articles, and a list of state laws.
1077.

NCFA Periodicals

NCFA publishes three periodicals. They are MEMO, National Adoption Reports, and Unmarried Parents Today. Periodicals are only available as part of membership. NCFA has a variety of membership categories: Agency members meet qualifications for membership and pay dues based on their service programs, but not less than $500 per year. Chairman's Club members are those individuals who wish to be actively involved with NCFA and who wish to be informed in detail about all developments. These individuals pay dues of at least $1,000 per year. Corporate membership is available for organizations or firms which are interested in the work of NCFA but which do not qualify for agency or associate membership. Corporate dues are $10,000 annually. Associate membership is for agencies (including public agencies) which are interested in the work of NCFA but which do not qualify for agency membership. Associate dues are $500 per year. Sustainer memberships are available for $200 annually for a family. Supporter membership dues are $100 annually for a family. Regular membership is $50 annually for a family. All Chairman's Club members, Corporate members and Agency members receive all of NCFA's periodicals as well as other membership benefits. (For more information about membership write to NCFA.)

MEMO.

A news and information service, published at least every other week, especially useful to administrators of agencies providing adoption services, services to young, single or troubled parents or services to infertile couples. MEMO also provides updates on legislative and regulatory changes at the Federal and State levels. MEMO is only available as a part of membership, and the membership must either be in the category of Associate, Chairman's Club, Corporate or Agency.

UNMARRIED PARENTS TODAY.

This newsletter is published at least six times per year and is especially useful to those who operate maternity services, including residential programs such as maternity homes. UPT also provides information about grants made by the Federal Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs. Available to all membership categories with dues in excess of $200 per year.

NATIONAL ADOPTION REPORTS.

This newsletter, published every other month, is especially useful to individuals who are concerned about adoption. The newsletter has information for those who have already adopted and is of use to those who are considering adoption. The newsletter features information about research that relates to adoption, highlights of developments that occur in Washington, D.C. and the state legislatures affecting adoption, news about court developments, information about media coverage affecting adoption attitudes, and book reviews. Special emphasis is given to child development information which will assist adoptive parents.

NAR.

Is sent to all categories of NCFA membership.

NCFA'S "Adoptive Kids Have Great Expectations" Public Education Campaign

Print Ads* (velox glossy slicks)

8" x 10"	Gerald Ford, Kitty and Peter Full page Carruthers, Greg Louganis and Wilson Riles. $10.00 each
4-1/2 x 10"	Wilson Riles Half page $7.50 each
5" x 5"	Dave Thomas and Scott Hamilton Quarter page $5.00 each

Full set of print ads - $19.95

** May not be changed; for use "as is."*

Poster

23" x 16"	Gerald Ford $10.00 each

Video Cassettes

1" submaster :30/:20 TV spots $200 **

Audio Cassettes

1/4" audio cassette tape dub :60/:30 radio commercials $50.00

*** May be "localized." Agencies which are not NCFA members in good standing must arrange for special, one-time licensing arrangements to localize these spots.*

1989 *Adoption Factbook* Advertisers

National Adoption Hotline
Adoption Defense Fund
National Committee For Adoption
Business Publishers, Inc.
New Hope of Washington
Child Welfare League of America, Inc.
Nancy C. Erickson, Esq.
Spence-Chapin Services To Families & Children
National Committee For Adoption
Adoptive Families of America (formerly OURS)
Perspectives Press
Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans
Family Adoption Center
Campbell Soup Company
The Cradle Society
GEM Tapes
Our Child Press
Lifeline Children's Services
Gentle Care Adoption Services
Loving Homes (Spence-Chapin)
The Barker Foundation
Homes of St. Mark
The Open Door Adoption Agency
St. Mary's Services
National Committee For Adoption
Bethany Christian Services

I Know My Baby Will Be Part of a Loving Family Because I'm Choosing Adoption

More and more women with unplanned pregnancies are saying this. They know that making an adoption plan is a mature and positive way of showing their love for their child.

If you're pregnant and faced with decisions about possible solutions to your problem, call us in confidence. We'll give you the facts. You decide.

If you're calling about pregnancy, call collect. Call the National Adoption Hotline, (202) 328-8072.

National Committee for Adoption

1930 17th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

ANNOUNCING
THE ADOPTION DEFENSE FUND

Unbelievably, adoption itself is under assault. There are groups and individuals who have organized to do away with adoption, who consider it nothing more than something that causes "emotional scars." Those who have formed their families through adoption, those who are adopted persons and those who planned adoptions for their children know better. They know adoption can be a wonderful option and that adoption needs to be defended and expanded in our society. That's why the Adoption Defense Fund was created — to work with legislatures and with courts to keep adoption alive as a family-building institution.

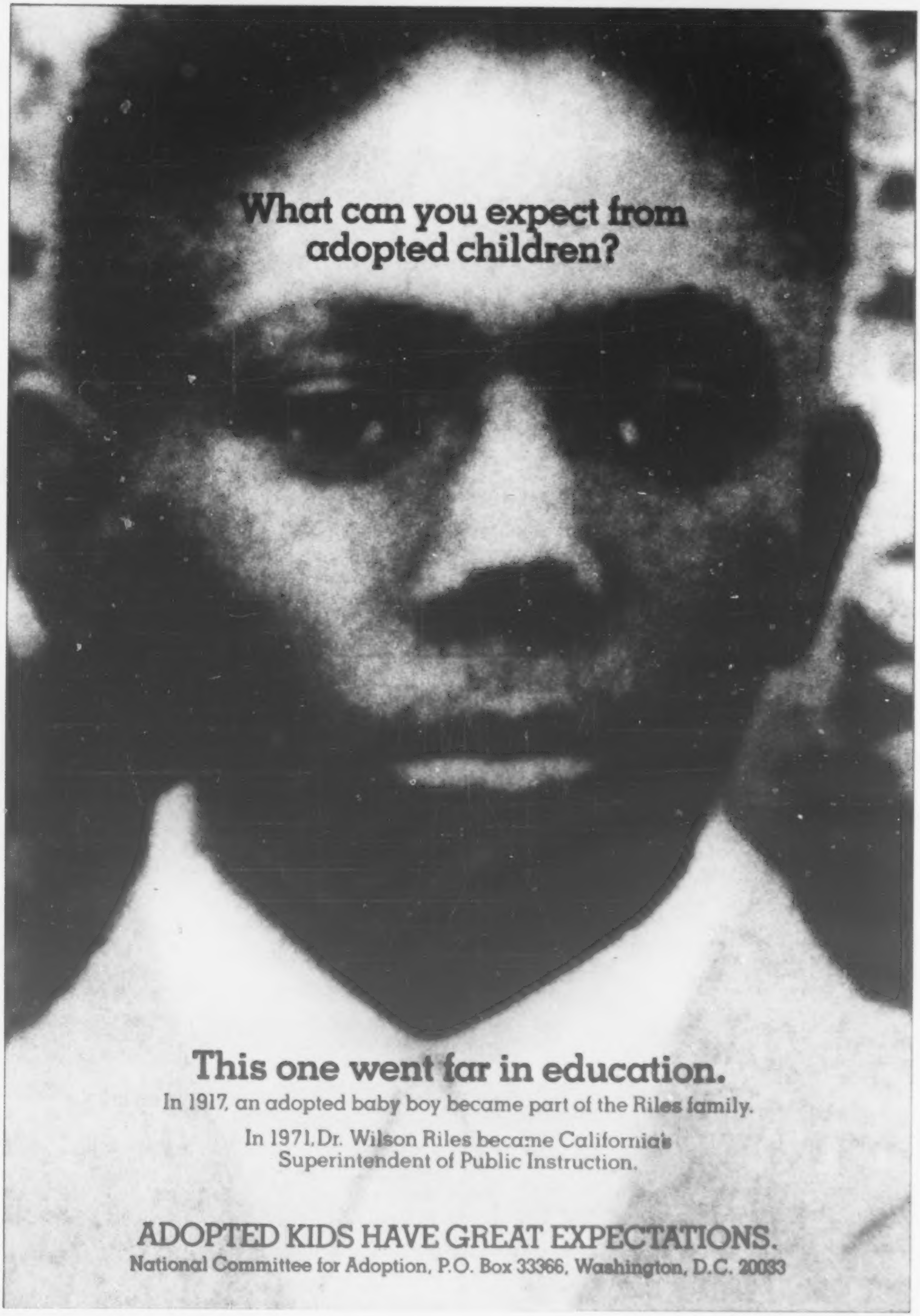
The Adoption Defense Fund will lobby for needed improvements in laws at the federal and state level. The Adoption Defense Fund will work, in a bipartisan way, to enact laws such as:

- tax breaks for those who adopt
- changes in the insurance laws so adopted children are not discriminated against
- improvements in international adoptions by amending immigration laws
- requirements for faster action on children who are legally free for adoption but who are "stuck in the system"
- strong protections for the confidentiality and privacy rights of adoptive families, birth parents and adopted persons.

The Adoption Defense Fund will work for needed improvements in the ways our courts treat adoption by:

- filing "friend of the court" briefs in important cases
- suing, especially in class actions, to force public agencies to carry out their responsibilities to children and families
- entering cases, as needed, to protect the rights of birth parents, adopted persons or adoptive parents.

The Adoption Defense Fund exists solely on voluntary contributions. Because of the nature of its work, contributions are not deductible for income tax purposes. The Adoption Defense Fund is an incorporated and charitable organization with its own board of directors. For more information write: Adoption Defense Fund, Suite B, 1930 17th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20009.



What can you expect from adopted children?

This one went far in education.

In 1917, an adopted baby boy became part of the Riles family.

In 1971, Dr. Wilson Riles became California's Superintendent of Public Instruction.

ADOPTED KIDS HAVE GREAT EXPECTATIONS.

National Committee for Adoption, P.O. Box 33366, Washington, D.C. 20033

SOMETIMES LIFE DEMANDS HARD DECISIONS.

Decisions about unplanned pregnancy affect the rest of a woman's life. New Hope helps women at this difficult time. We provide emotional support, financial or medical aid, a home away from home and someone to talk to who cares.

New Hope is just that: new hope for young women faced with unplanned pregnancies, new hope for families who want to adopt a child, new hope for special needs children or children whose families are in crisis. We are a non-profit, Christian agency with professional staff.

- **PREGNANCY SERVICES**
- **ADOPTIONS**
- **PERMANENCY PLANNING**

INTRODUCING OUR NEW VIDEO –

BitterSweet

- Presents the adoption option in the positive light it deserves.
- A catalyst for teachers and counselors who talk to teens about unplanned pregnancy.
- Combines the impact of a docu-drama with actual experiences of birthparents, adoptive parents and adoptees.
- 17 minutes, VHS format, $52.95 total.
- Study guide available, $2.

REVIEWS:

"***BitterSweet*** gives teenagers a glimpse of the positive aspects of adoption as well as a clear look at the grieving faced by birthparents who make this very difficult decision." **-Jeanne Warren Lindsay, M.A.** educator and author, *Pregnant Too Soon*

"We highly recommend ***BitterSweet*** for presenting the adoption option to young women and their families." **-Anne Pierson** of Loving and Caring author, *My Baby and Me* workbooks

Call for our brochure or order your copy today.

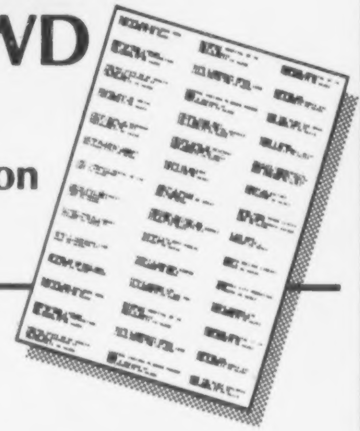
NEW HOPE

• OF WASHINGTON •

Licensed Child Placement Agency
2611 NE 125th St., Seattle, WA 98125
(206) 363-1800

MAILING LISTS THAT DRAW A CROWD

by Child Protection Report



Staging a conference or marketing books, video cassettes, films and training materials in the children and youth field? The easy way to draw a crowd is through **Child Protection Report's** exclusive mailing lists of top professionals.

The lists include **buyers** from every discipline in child welfare, child health, and juvenile justice services. They are continuously updated and expanded and contain just the people you want to reach.

Lists are in zip code order and may be rented separately, combined, or by professional category. Available in 4-up cheshire and pressure sensitive labels.

Child Protection report

Write or call
for our **FREE** brochure.

Yes, please send me your **FREE** brochure describing **Child Protection Report's** rental mailing lists of top professionals in the children and youth field.

Agency ______________________________

Name ______________________________

Street Address ______________________________

City ______________ State __________ Zip __________

Business Publishers, Inc.

951 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4464, (301) 587-6300

CWLA's Guide to Adoption Agencies: A National Directory of Adoption Agencies and Adoption Resources

Julia Posner

This recent publication by the Child Welfare League of America Breaks new ground in the field of adoption. For the first time, prospective adoptive parents have a place to turn for detailed information on over 600 licensed adoption agencies across the country. Similar in format to Barron's Guide to Colleges and Universities, this 668-page, state-by-state guide features:

Public adoption program in each state

- description of state-funded adoption program
- state exchange
- adoption subsidy
- adoption reunion registry
- adoption support organizations

Private licensed adoption agencies in each state

- brief history, statement of purpose, and program
- description
- cost
- children available
- wait
- requirements
- procedures

Private agency summary charts for quick reference

National child welfare and triad support organizations

- child welfare and advocacy organizations
- birthparent support organizations
- search and reunion organizations

Appendix listing approximately 50 agencies which have few or no geographic restrictions and place children in adoptive families across the nation.

Written by an adoptive parent for prospective adoptive parents, this long overdue resource promotes the benefits of agency-mediated adoption and guides prospective adoptors through the maze of adoption options now available—infant, international, and special needs adoption; single parent and older parent adoption; traditional, identified and open adoption.

Available on order through local book stores or directly from the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA, c/o CSSC, 300 Raritan Center Parkway, Edison, New Jersey, 08818, Stock No. 3453) for $15.95, the guide is an indispensable resource for parents exploring adoption.

SPENCE-CHAPIN
IS SEEKING
BLACK & INTERRACIAL FAMILIES TO ADOPT
OUR HEALTHY & BEAUTIFUL INFANTS

WE WELCOME YOUR CALL
212 - 369-0300

PLACING INFANTS & CHILDREN WITH
LOVING FAMILIES FOR OVER 40 YEARS.

(CONFIDENTIALITY RESPECTED)
SPENCE-CHAPIN
Services To Families & Children
6 East 94th Street New York, NY 10128

Nancy C. Erickson, Esq.
CONSULTANT

UNWED FATHERS:

- termination of their parental rights
- elimination of their adoption veto rights
- defense against paternity proceedings brought by unwed fathers
- defense against custody or visitation actions brought by unwed fathers

Nancy C. Erickson, Esq.
619 Carroll Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215
718-783-8162

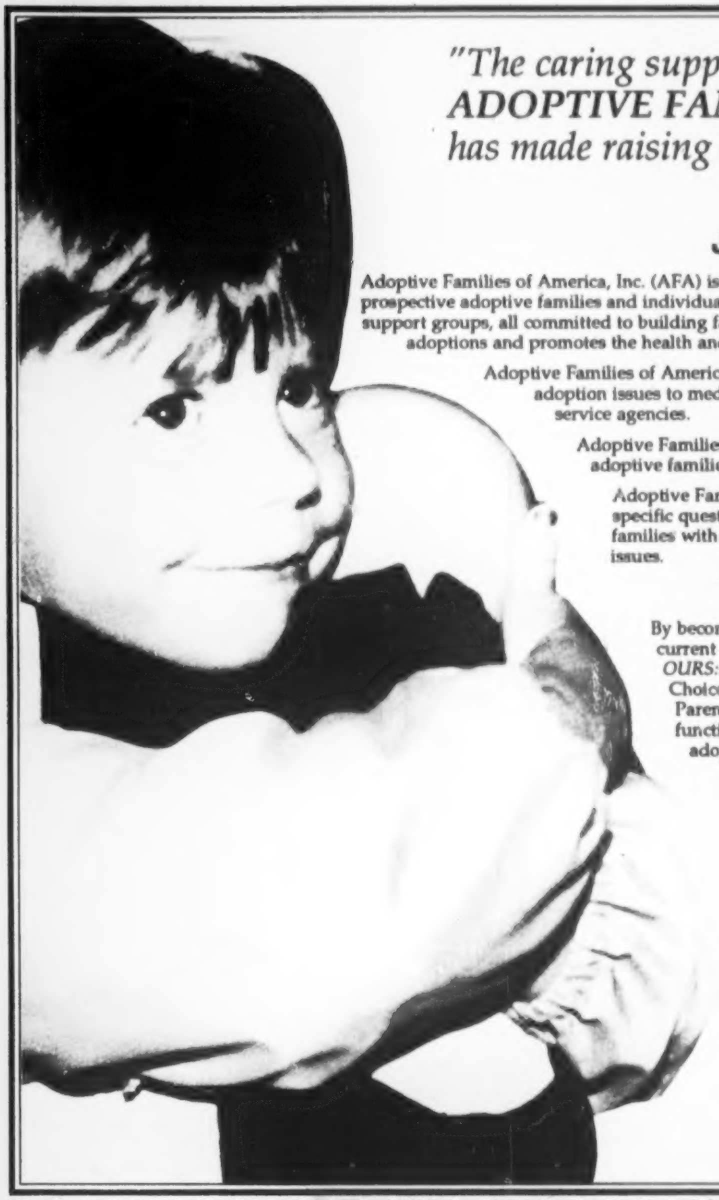
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

National Committee for Adoption

Your support helped the National Committee for Adoption achieve over $8-million in public service television, radio and print advertising in 1988.

Plus, it enabled us to stand up for the best of adoption in the following during the past year:

JANUARY	*CBS Radio and USA Today*
FEBRUARY	*Family Circle and ABC-TV's Nightline*
MARCH	*Cable News Network, Sonya Live*
APRIL	*Oprah Winfrey*
MAY	*Associated Press, Essence, Good Housekeeping, LA Times*
JUNE	*Morton Downey Jr., 700 Club*
JULY	*Geraldo, Straight Talk*
AUGUST	*Glamour, People are Talking*
SEPTEMBER	*Life, Newsweek and Seven Days*
OCTOBER	*Cable News Network, CBS-TV's 48 Hours*
NOVEMBER	*National Public Radio*
DECEMBER	*"Ann Landers", Geraldo, Money Magazine, Sally Jessy Raphael and the 700 Club*



"The caring support we've received from
ADOPTIVE FAMILIES OF AMERICA
has made raising our little girl a little easier."

—JAN & JOE CASSELLA
SOUTHINGTON, CT

Join Us Today

Adoptive Families of America, Inc. (AFA) is a national nonprofit organization of more than 15,000 adoptive and prospective adoptive families and individuals and the umbrella organization for more than 170 adoptive parent support groups, all committed to building families through adoption. AFA creates opportunities for successful adoptions and promotes the health and welfare of children without permanent families.

Adoptive Families of America provides accurate, nonsensationalized information about adoption issues to media professionals, legislators, health insurance companies, and social service agencies.

Adoptive Families of America is the national representative of and advocate for adoptive families and their concerns.

Adoptive Families of America's 24-hour Helpline assists families in crisis or with specific questions, and its Family Support Network Listing service matches families with special needs with families who have had experience with such issues.

Together we make a difference

By becoming a member of Adoptive Families of America, you will keep current on adoption-related issues and enjoy the added benefit of receiving *OURS: The Magazine of Adoptive Families*. *OURS* received the Parents Choice Gold Award for parenting magazines. In selecting the magazine, Parents Choice Foundation judges noted that it "fulfills an important function, and it does this well. The magazine deals with all aspects of adoption—practical, psychological, social, medical, and legal… providing adoptive families with practical help and, equally important, a sense of community."

Articles have addressed the following issues:

- Education and adopted children
- Subsidies for adoptive families
- Resources for families with special needs children
- Assessing the health needs of arriving children
- Celebrating an adopted child's cultural heritage
- The challenges of single parenting
- Legislative issues about adoption
- Siblings and large families
- Social, psychological, and medical concerns
- Insurance issues and adoptive families

ADOPTIVE FAMILIES OF AMERICA, INC.
3333 Highway 100 North
Minneapolis, MN 55422
612/535-4829

Become a Member of Adoptive Families of America, Inc.

☐ **YES!** Start my membership in Adoptive Families of America at once! And begin my subscription to *OURS: The Magazine of Adoptive Families*.

☐ I do not wish to become a member of AFA at this time, but please send me a complimentary copy of your "Highlights" issue.

MEMBERSHIP

United States
☐ $24 1/yr
☐ $42 2/yrs
☐ $58 3/yrs

International
Canada ☐ $34 (3rd Class)
Europe ☐ $43 (Airmail) ☐ $34 (Surface)
Australia ☐ $47 (Airmail) ☐ $34 (Surface)

PLEASE PRINT

Name ____ Daytime Phone (Area Code) ____ Home Phone (Area Code) ____

Address ____

City ____ State ____ Zip ____ Country ____

Method of Payment: ☐ Check/Money Order payable to AFA, Inc. (U.S. Funds only please) ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA

By providing the following information, I authorize AFA, Inc. to charge my order.

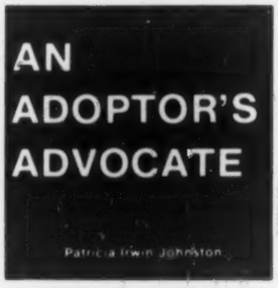
Card No. ____ Exp. Date ____ Cardholder's Name ____ Cardholder's Signature ____

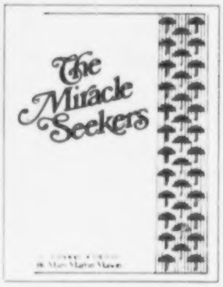
☐ IN ADDITION, I would like to contribute $________ to further the work of Adoptive Families of America, Inc.

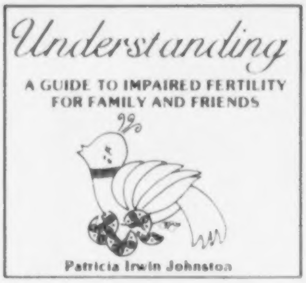
RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

ADOPTIVE FAMILIES OF AMERICA, INC.
3333 Highway 100 North
Minneapolis, MN 55422
612/535-4829

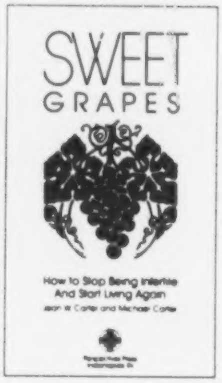
If infertility or adoption are the issues We have the books.


AN
ADOPTOR'S
ADVOCATE
Patricia Irwin Johnston


The Miracle Seekers

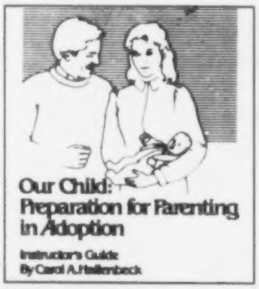

Understanding
A GUIDE TO IMPAIRED FERTILITY FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
Patricia Irwin Johnston

OUR BABY
A BIRTH AND ADOPTION STORY
by JANICE KOCH


SWEET
GRAPES
How to Stop Being Infertile And Start Living Again

REAL
FOR SURE
SISTER

The Mulberry Bird


Our Child:
Preparation for Parenting in Adoption
Instructor's Guide
By Carol A. Hallenbeck

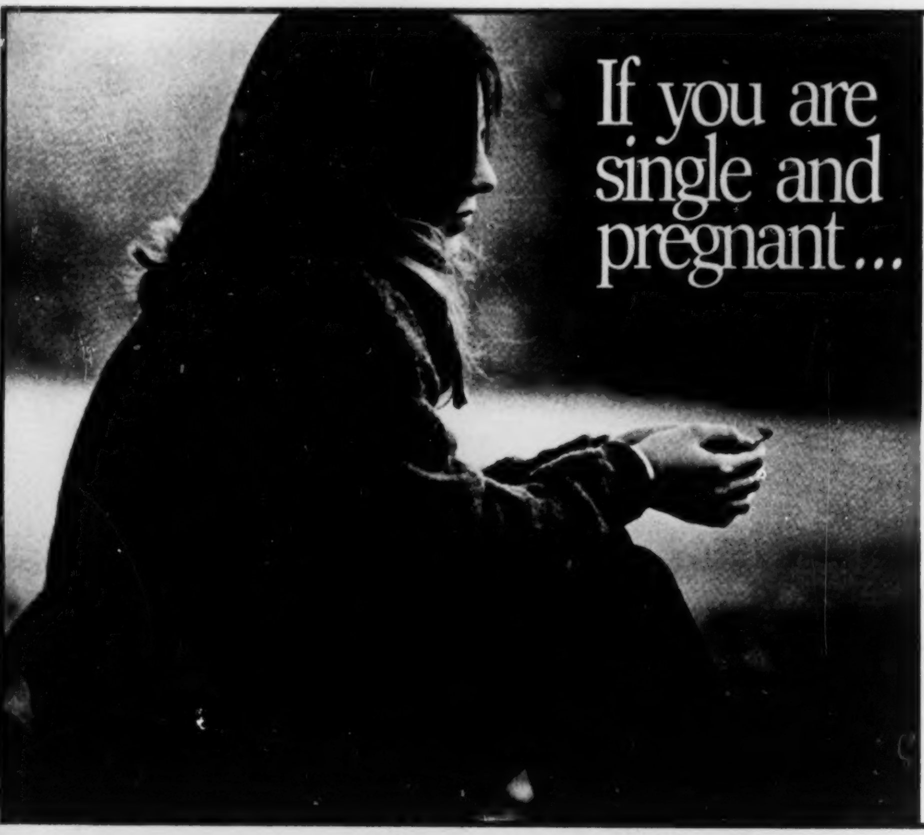
PERSPECTIVES
ON A
GRAFTED TREE
Compiled by
PATRICIA IRWIN JOHNSTON

FILLING IN
THE BLANKS

WHERE THE SUN
KISSES THE SEA

Order some of our titles from NCFA, or send self addressed stamped envelope for our complete catalog.

Perspectives Press
The Infertility and Adoption Publisher
P.O. Box 90318 Dept. N
Indianapolis, IN 46290


If you are single and pregnant...

You need and deserve real security, understanding and the very best medical advice and care. *Caring Alternatives,* Volunteers of America's maternity and adoption program, offers free medical and counseling services in a lovely, modern "home away from home" — a peaceful, supportive environment where you can determine the right future for you and your child. We're here for you.

FREE COUNSELING
FREE HOUSING
FREE MEDICAL CARE

United Way
It brings out the best in all of us.

Caring Alternatives

Volunteers of America of
Greater New Orleans
Maternity and Adoption Program
Call Toll Free
1-800-535-9646 or 504-836-5225

---

family adoption center

A STATE-LICENSED AGENCY

The Family Adoption Center is a non-profit, state-licensed, non-sectarian adoption agency that serves pregnant women and adoptive couples of all faiths. Our services include:

- Coverage of medical and hosptial fees related to pregnancy and delivery.
- Housing for you during the time immediately before delivery.
- Counseling for you and the child's father during your pregnancy and after delivery.
- Support from our staff during delivery.
- A complete explanation of all your legal rights.
- Payment of all appropriate legal expenses.
- Placement of the child with the adoptive couple right after hospital discharge, so that no foster care is necessary.

The Family Adoption Center serves childless and infertile couples and women with unintended pregnancies who wish to choose the option of adoption. The agency is a program division of the Family Health Council, which is the only publicly funded family planning program in the United States that also offers direct adoption services.

For more information contact:

Family Adoption Center
1200 Allegheny Tower
625 Stanwix Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 288-2138

A program of the
Family Health Council, Inc.

FH-41152

COMPLIMENTS

OF

CAMPBELL
SOUP
COMPANY

We're here to help... The Cradle Society.

The Cradle is proud of its long tradition as a respected, non-profit adoption agency. Since we opened our doors in 1923, we have served over 12,000 families from every religious, ethnic and economic background. Because we are a private agency, we have greater flexibility to serve single mothers and childless couples who ask for our help. And of course, all our services are *absolutely free of charge.*

Our experienced, professional staff provide you with emotional and financial support:

- Confidential counseling at *your* convenience.
- Living arrangements available through the Cradle.
- Medical care and assistance in obtaining financial aid.
- It costs nothing to receive this help—we're here for you.

For more information about the Cradle please stop by or call:

The Cradle Society
2049 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60204
(312) 475-5800
After November 11, 1989 (708) 475-5800

Love grows... in the Cradle.

OUR CHILD: PREPARATION FOR PARENTING
Instructor's Guide

Our Child:
Preparation for Parenting
in Adoption

Our Child Press
800 Maple Glen Lane, Dept. I
Wayne, PA 19087

Adoption, Parent Education

GEM TAPES

AVAILABLE NOW, FROM GEM TAPES

"Enhancing the Quality of Maternity and Adoption Practices"

The Nov. 14 - 15 tapes from the NCFA Training Seminar in Lubbock, TX — 22 tapes in two cases, only $115 for the entire Conference. All orders must be prepaid.

Think about GEM when you plan taping of your next conference.

Contact: Don Merrifield
806-797-9608
4801 24th Street
Lubbock, TX 79407

lifeline

Children's Services

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION?

- Maternity Home Care Available
- Medical Expenses Paid
- Babies Placed in Christian Homes

2908 Pump House Road
Birmingham, Alabama
(205) 967-0811

"Serving the Southeast"

At Loving Homes, this is how you choose your baby's parents.

RELIGIOUS ☐ HAVE OTHER CHILDREN ☑ HOME OWNER ☐ ARTISTIC ☑

At Loving Homes, we have hundreds of carefully screened, qualified couples waiting to adopt babies.

So if you're pregnant and planning for adoption, we can help you find loving parents for your child that have all the qualities you think are important.

At the same time, we'll help you during your pregnancy by providing free counseling, as well as any housing and medical services you may need.

So call Loving Homes, the adoption service of Spence Chapin, at 1-800-321-LOVE. We're a non-profit, state licensed child placement agency with over 40 years experience.

And we can help you find the perfect home for your baby.

LOVING HOMES
THE ADOPTION SERVICE OF SPENCE CHAPIN

PREGNANT?

Adoption is an Option

- Assist in selection of Adoptive Parents
- No cost for Medical Expenses, Counseling
- Housing Available
- Anonymous Communication
- No Travel Necessary
- State Licensed, Confidential
- Caring and Professional

Gentle Care
ADOPTION SERVICES

243 East Livingston
Columbus, OH 43215
1-(800) 824-9633 (In Ohio) or
1-(614) 469-0007 (Collect)

THE BARKER FOUNDATION

For 45 years, we at The Barker Foundation have worked with adoption. We have provided counseling to well over 10,000 pregnant women and placed more than 3,000 children in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

✓Service to Birth Parents

- free confidential counseling
- help with medical expenses
- housing available
- optional pre-adopt foster care
- open & traditional placement
- monthly post placement support group

✓Service to Adoptive Families-International

- adoption preparation, homestudy & supervision
- reliable affiliated agencies in Latin America
- reasonable waiting periods
- active parents' group
- post-placement services & education

✓Service to Adoptive Families - Domestic

- adoption preparation, homestudy & supervision
- open & traditional adoptions
- post adoptive services & education
- parents' support group

✓Agency Assisted - Service to Adoptive Families & Birth Parents

- adoption preparation, homestudy
- optional foster care available
- counseling for birth parents
- pre/post placement support for family & birth parents

THE BARKER FOUNDATION
4114 River Road, NW, Washington, DC 20016
1-800-673-8489
Established 1945, licensed, not for profit

PREGNANT?
WE CAN HELP.

Free Counseling
Free Medical Care
Free Housing Available

Birthparents Involved In Selection of Family

We offer a full range of adoption services tailored to your individual needs.

HOMES OF ST. MARK
(Maternity & Adoption Services)

(713) 522-2800
CALL COLLECT
TX 1-800-543-BABY
ALL FAITHS SERVED

TOD

THE OPEN DOOR
Adoption Agency
P.O. Box 4
THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA 31799-0004

A non-profit, state licensed,
private agency
working with couples
throughout the United States
who have a heart for
Hard-To-Place infants.

(912) 228-6339
Call Collect

Adoption is a Loving Option

- Adoption Services
- Free Medical Care
- Confidential Counseling

MATERNITY SERVICES FOR PROBLEM PREGNANCIES

- Group Maternity Homes
- Individual Shepherding Homes
- Educational Resources

St. Mary's Services provides loving support throughout the decision-making process for pregnant women and their families who are involved with unplanned pregnancies. You can help choose the best family.

Confidential counseling in a warm, non-judgemental professional atmosphere by our loving staff of licensed clinical social workers.

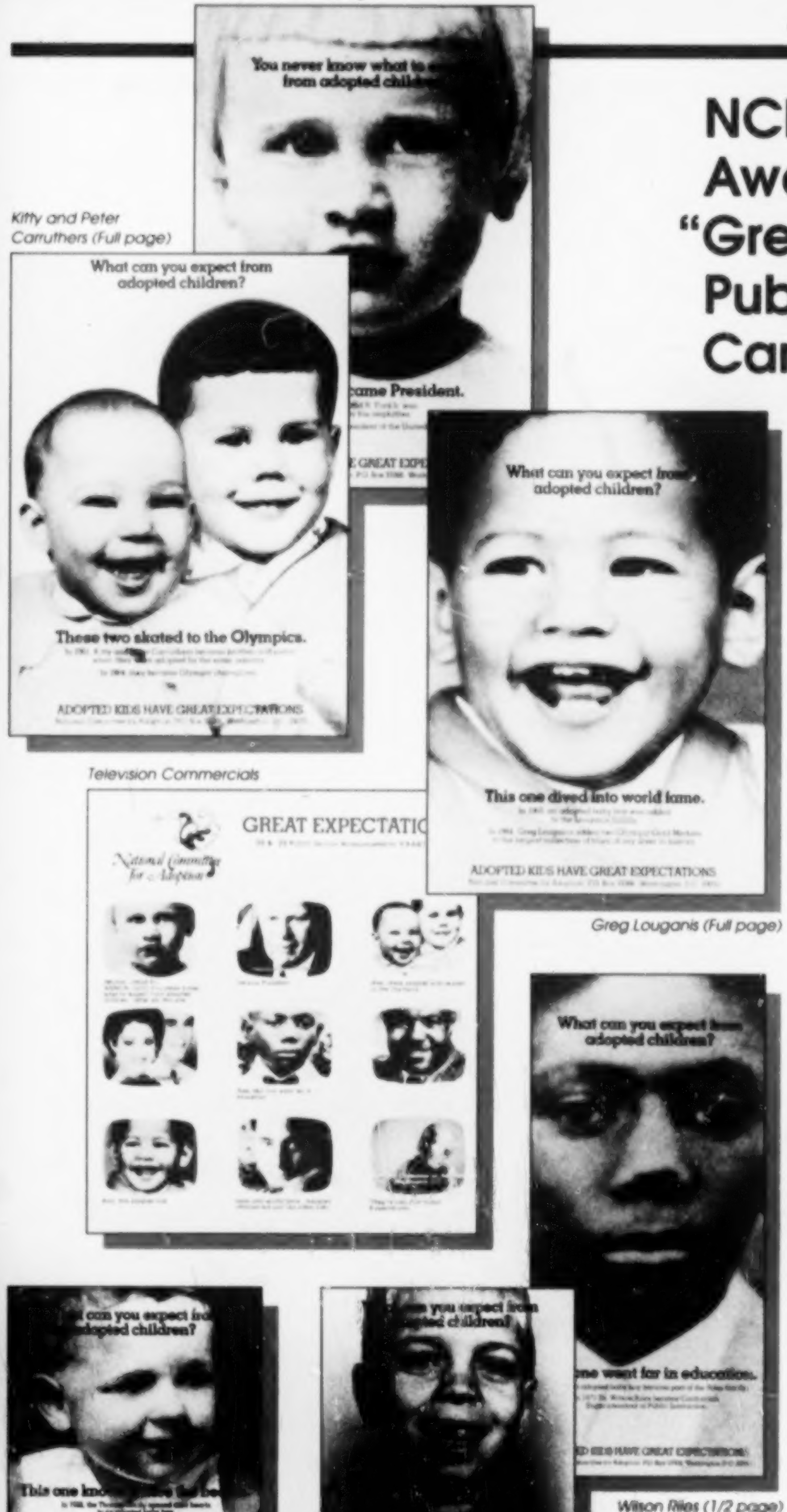
Call us collect at 708-870-8181.
We're here to help.

St. Mary's
Services®

717 West Kirchoff Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005-2358

Counseling Offices Available in Chicago,
Burr Ridge and Crystal Lake.

St. Mary's Services is a licensed non-profit Christian child welfare agency established in 1887.



Gerald R. Ford (full page)

You never know what to e
from adopted child

came President.

E GREAT EXPE

Kitty and Peter Carruthers (Full page)

What can you expect from
adopted children?

These two skated to the Olympics.

ADOPTED KIDS HAVE GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Greg Louganis (Full page)

What can you expect from
adopted children?

This one dived into world fame.

ADOPTED KIDS HAVE GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Television Commercials

GREAT EXPECTATIC

National Committee for Adoption

Wilson Riles (1/2 page)

What can you expect from
adopted children?

one went far in education.

D KIDS HAVE GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Dave Thomas (1/4 page)

can you expect fro
adopted children?

This one kno

ADOPTED KIDS HAVE GREAT EXPECTATIO

Scott Hamilton (1/4 page)

you expect from
pted children?

NCFA's Award-winning "Great Expectations" Public Education Campaign.

Campaign Elements Available for Purchase.

Print Ads: velox slicks

Full pages (8" X 10")
Ford, Carruthers, Louganis and Riles.
$10.00 each.

Half page (4 1/2" X 10")
Riles.
$7.50 each.

Quarter pages (5" X 5")
Thomas and Hamilton.
$5.00 each.

Full set of six ads.
$19.95.

Poster: (23" X 16")
Ford.
$10.00 each.

Television Commercials:

:30/:20 1" submaster.
$200 *(can be localized for NCFA member use).*

Radio Commercials:

1/4" audio cassette tape dub.
:60/:30
$50.00.

Prices subject to change
Contact:

NCFA, 1930 Seventeenth St. NW,
Washington D.C. 20009

We Respond

ANYTIME a woman with an unplanned pregnancy calls,

1-800-BETHANY

our team of counselors offers advice, compassion and local follow-up wherever the call originates. For over 40 years, Bethany has offered a full range of pregnancy and adoption services in the name of Him, who loved us first.

Pass it on!

ACCREDITED

FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE US AT
901 Eastern Avenue, N.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
(616) 459-6273

BETHANY
CHRISTIAN
SERVICES

. . . HE loves me

Offices Nationwide